The German Tribune

Hamburg, 24 May 1987
Twenty-sixth year - No. 1274 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Allies wait for Bonn to set ball rolling on missiles

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner said he did not feel out on a limb at the Stavanger session of Nato's 14-member nuclear planning group.

It was clear by the end of the proceedings he would not gain approval of his plan for an intermediate-range missile reduction agreement allowing both sides to retain a limited number of shorter-range systems.

But he stuck to his guns, arguing that the really important allies — America, Britain and Italy — had yet to arrive at a final decision and France was entirely on his side.

The Benelux countries were also willing to consider both the double zero option and the retention of shorter-range systems by both sides. They insisted on the Bundeswehr's Pershing 1a missiles being excluded from any agreement.

Denmark, Norway and Spain are, in contrast, unreservedly in favour of the double zero option, preferring to disregard the Bundeswehr's Pershings.

Portugal and Turkey have so far commented only on the reduction of longer-range intermediate missiles, which is no longer disputed, while the Greek ambassador has had nothing to say on either aspect.

Nato countries not yet committed to one option or the other are by no means bound to accept Herr Wörner's concept of equal ceilings — always assuming the Federal Republic decides in its favour.

He may feel leading members of the alliance would not frustrate a clear decision by Bonn, but it was clear that their interests differed from Bonn's.

All that Bonn knows for sure is that for Britain and France there is no question of either missile modernisation or any reduction in their own nuclear weapons.

To this extent their support would have no bearing on the Federal Republic.

The Americans in contrast are afraid of difficulties with Congress over financing the stationing of replacement systems in Europe.

If, however, they manage to have funds approved they plan a substantial build-up of nuclear missile systems with ranges of less than 500km.

Herr Wörner is less than enthusiastic about this idea because it would expose Germans in both pacts to special risk, which is why all Nato allies have shown understanding for his worries and for the forthright terms in which he defended German interests.

Yet it is doubtful whether that amounted to the solidarity of Bonn's allies to which Herr Wörner now lays claim, arguing that the Federal Republic has always paid its dues.

It is likelier to be mere consideration for a fellow-Defence Minister who, like most of his counterparts, has a hard time in his own government.

If the Federal government could only arrive at a clear decision it would, or so Bonn is convinced, have key Nato allies on its side. But that will be a while yet.

Basically, everyone is waiting for Bonn to decide and no country is prepared to come out of cover.

The Federal Republic is pressed for time, although Herr Wörner would not agree for a moment. Yet even he cannot imagine the mid-June Reykjavik gathering of Nato Foreign Ministers failing to achieve results.

Britain's official view, as that of a leading Nato ally, is unlikely to be clear before the 11 June general election.

That will leave very little time before what may prove the crucial session in the Icelandic capital — always assuming the Dutch are not right in claiming that permanent representatives are expected to reach a decision at the North Atlantic Council session to be held at the beginning of June.

Basically, of course, Herr Wörner has already resigned himself to the double zero option as long as the Bundeswehr's Pershing 1a missiles are not affected (and may even be modernised).

He sees this as the better of two solutions, again assuming the Americans might be prepared to consider with-

Continued on page 2





Disarmament was high on the agenda when Czech Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek (left) met Chancellor Kohl in Bonn. (Photo: Sven Simon)

IN THIS ISSUE

CDU is hit but FDP gains in state polls

In Rhineland-Palatinate, on the border with France, Christian Democrat Bernhard Vogel has retained power as premier. In Hamburg, Social Democrat Klaus von Dohnanyi remains as mayor.

But in both *Länder* the Christian Democrats lost votes. Their performance in the Rhineland-Palatinate was one of their worst since the war. They have been forced into joining forces with the Free Democrats, whose showing was brilliant in both states.

The Social Democrats also did well. In the Rhineland-Palatinate they virtually held their share of the vote — they could hardly have expected to do better.

In Hamburg the SPD was unexpectedly successful in increasing its vote by 3.3 percentage points. Pessimists had feared the city, one of the last Social Democratic strongholds, would be lost to the CDU.

For the Christian Democrats their poor showing in Hamburg was particularly disappointing in that they lose their position as the largest party in the assembly. The SPD now is.

Hamburg now has a workable majority again: a Helmut Schmidt-style coalition of Social and Free Democrats.

This outcome may at first glance also have seemed confusing. The Free Democrats used to favour a coalition with the CDU, just like their national party. But they were not in the Hamburg assembly.

Now they are. And the Social Democrats need their support. This only goes to show how independent and indispensable the FDP has become.

The growth of the Greens seems to have tailed off. They were voted into the Rhineland-Palatinate state assembly for the first time, but as fourth party, were outpolled by the Free Democrats.

In Mainz, where the possibility was practically ruled out, the Greens had said they would be prepared to join a coalition if asked. In Hamburg they were not. Maybe this rejectionist approach will do the Greens more harm on balance than they imagine.

There can be no doubt that the results were of national importance. It would, for instance, be wrong to assume that the SPD had emerged from its trough, while the CDU must stop to consider whether its policy in Bonn will continue to ensure it of majority support.

The foreign policy clash between the CDU/CSU and the FDP certainly doesn't seem to have done the Free Democrats any harm. It even looks as though voters were keen to reward the FDP for its stand against Chancellor Kohl.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 18 May 1987)

The Free Democrats have surged back into popularity in *Land* elections in Hamburg and Rhineland-Palatinate. But the Christian Democrats lost votes in both polls. Their performance in Rhineland-Palatinate, where they lost their absolute majority, was one of their worst there since the war. They remain in power in coalition with the Free Democrats. In Hamburg, the Social Democrats, who had been hanging on since November with a minority government, beat off the CDU challenge and are now likely to form a coalition with the Free Democrats, who were not represented in the last assembly. The SPD increased its vote by 3.3 percentage points and arithmetically is able to form a coalition with either the Free Democrats or the Greens. In Rhineland-Palatinate, the Greens gained slightly — enough to put them into the assembly for the first time. They will have six members. But they dropped 3.4 percentage points in Hamburg. Results.- HAMBURG: CDU 40.5 per cent, 49 seats (last election 41.9 per cent, 54 seats); SPD 45, 55 (41.7, 53); Greens 7, 8 (10.4, 13); FDP 6.6, 8 (4.8, 0); others 0.9, 0 (1.2, 0). RHINELAND-PALATINATE: CDU 45.1, 46 (51.9, 57); SPD 38.8, 41 (39.6, 43); Greens 5.9, 6 (4.5, 0); FDP 7.3, 7 (3.5, 0); others 2.9, 0 (0.5, 0).

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Cory's high hurdle: hopes that cannot be fulfilled

Corazon Aquino runs a risk, as unexpectedly overwhelming Philippine election winner, of captaining the team of tragic figures of the century.

The poorer 70 per cent of the 52 million Filipinos still place in her hopes and wishes she cannot fulfil.

Cory Aquino is both popular and an exception among her country's rulers in the 40 years since independence.

She is personally above suspicion of corruption or complaisance toward the so-called business community, unlike some of her closest associates.

Some of her clan are members of the kleptocracy, and even if they cannot personally be bought they are still determined to defend the interests of the proprietary classes.

Her party campaigned as Lakas ng Bayan, or People's Power, calling to mind the spontaneous popular movement that sent dictator Ferdinand Marcos packing in February 1986 with the cordial but not disinterested assistance of parts of the armed forces.

What happened on the streets of Manila and most of the provinces was a peaceful revolutionary movement that first and foremost expected People's Power to redistribute the nation's wealth.

The slum-dwellers of Tondo, the sugar-cane workers of Negros, the farmhands of 13 regions and 72 provinces did not take to the streets full of hope and jubilation for the sake of the abstract principle of democracy.

Yet the only redistribution of wealth so far apparent has been a redistribution within the upper classes.

Marcos cronies have in many cases been replaced by members of the Cojuangco clan, led commercially by a brother of Cory's.

The Laurels, members of the Vice-President's extended family, have staked their claim elsewhere.

The 70 per cent of Filipinos who live below the statistical poverty line, 35 million people, are as poor as ever.

One group of the oligarchy was the winner of the February 1986 coup, another the loser. The people were left not with power but merely with hope, and they still associate it with Cory.

The Left seems to have been routed even more convincingly than the more self-critical of its organisers had expected.

Some left-wingers were not expecting much to come of elections in any case. They feel an armed uprising will be inevitable once popular illusions about an Aquino policy of major reform have been dispelled.

Others, similarly expecting nothing good to come from Manila, are relentlessly fashioning social counter-structures in the slums and in the countryside.

There are varied transitions between these groups and between them and grassroots Christian communities.

The Communist Party, hampered by a built-in dogmatism dating back to the pre-Gorbachov era, here sees recruitment potential for revolution.

Revolution is not just round the corner, but the oligarchy's policies could make it inevitable and the behaviour of the armed forces could promote it.

President Aquino's henchmen may have breathed a sigh of relief that the Opposition led by former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile was annihilated at the polls.

Enrile attributes electoral defeat to vote-rigging, but the war of words ought not to be taken more seriously than it is meant.

What might happen is indicated by a feature of the elections: the fact that Enrile's GAD, or Grand Alliance for Democracy, did far better in barracks than outside the military encampments.



The next round of polarisation can be expected to occur between the Army and armed left-wing forces.

As there is sure to be no land reform and no relief for the hardship of the rural population, no easing of the pressure of the flight from the country to the cities and serious social crisis will not be alleviated in the least, it is sure to be a harsh and relentless struggle.

There is little President Aquino can do to change this even after her glorious victory at the polls. Her hands are bound by the ties of interest between her political organisation and the small proprietary elite of landowners, industrialists and representatives of foreign investors.

Despite her political integrity and good will she seems sure to be cast for a role suspicious reminiscent of historic examples such as Alexander Kerenski, the Russian Liberal, or — worse still — China's Chiang Kai-shek.

After what clearly seems to have been a substantial electoral victory she lacks the equipment with which to sever these bonds.

Karl Grobe

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 14 May 1987)

Mitterrand goes to Berlin to make a point

President Mitterrand of France has presented Berlin with the most impressive gift so far to mark its 750th anniversary.

It is not the bronze bas-relief of the Victory Column which he handed over, no matter how important it may have been as a token of the consolidation of Franco-German friendship.

The important feature was Mitterrand's reaffirmation of guarantees for the city at a meeting with Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker in Schloss Bellevue.

The French have from the outset been punctiliously careful to ensure that all concerned chose to abide by the letter of the 1971 Four-Power Agreement on Berlin.

French insistence on this point regularly annoyed the Russians. It has also more than once prevented all too eager Germans and the other Western Allies from adopting a less meticulous approach to the difficult issues involved.

President Mitterrand flew the French flag in Berlin less than a week after the Eastern attack in connection with alleged breaches of the Agreement, culminating in Mayor Diepgen's invitation to visit East Berlin being withdrawn.

His gesture is doubly important. He is the first Allied head of state to confer with the Federal President at his Berlin official residence. Queen Elizabeth and President Reagan will follow in his footsteps.

M. Mitterrand also publicly underscored the right of the people of Berlin to continue to develop their ties with the Federal Republic within the framework of fundamental Berlin status rights.

Berlin is not a city like any other; it depends on gestures of this kind. After the headaches caused by Herr Diepgen's travel diplomacy President Mitterrand's fundamental demonstration has added a new and festive note to the city's anniversary celebrations.

A city with such allies can view the future more easily despite division, the Wall and barbed-wire emplacements.

Peter Philipps

(Die Welt, Bonn, 12 May 1987)

South Africa's whites vote to close ranks

Change or die was P. W. Botha's message to white South Africans some years ago, but the clear victory his National Party won in the whites-only elections has yet to show which it was a mandate for: change or death.

Economic sanctions imposed by the United States and Western Europe — international punishment of the stubborn Boers — have had exactly the effect Africa pundits were expecting. The whites have closed ranks.

Gains by Andries Treurnicht's extreme right-wing Conservative Party indicate the direction South Africa might take if President Botha, with his present overwhelming majority, fails to reduce domestic violence and to resume a process that will gradually lead the blacks toward power-sharing.

President Botha waged his election campaign with a promise to go ahead with reforms aimed at black power-sharing. His voters have given him a clear mandate to do so.

Despite Mr Treurnicht's warnings of a sellout of white interests the South African leader can no longer really afford to keep anxiously looking over his right shoulder to make sure his fellow-countrymen are with him.

The time has come for the National Party, which has held power in Pretoria for an uninterrupted 39 years, has enough strength of its own to set aside outmoded views.

A process ending with South Africa as a multiracial society on the basis of equal rights for all citizens will require painful sacrifices by the whites but, strength or not, it will in the long term be the only means of survival.

That does not mean that swift progress as expected by Western countries is likely. Conditions in South Africa are somewhat more complicated than is generally imagined in Europe.

Even so, if President Botha refuses to budget after his impressive victory at the polls he will have banked once and for all on death rather than on change.

It will then hardly matter how long he can postpone the inevitable.

H.-D. Schiele

(Mannheimer Morgen, 8 May 1987)

Missiles

Continued from page 1

drawing their Pershing 1a nuclear warheads.

He consoles himself with the thought that withdrawal of the German Pershings would be the real zero option, making it clear yet again that these missiles, which can only be used with US nuclear warheads, are part of the missile category about which the superpowers are negotiating.

This assessment tallies with his concept of equal ceilings for shorter-range intermediate missiles of between 72 and 80 on each side, neatly including the German Pershings.

Given this solution, the Germans would prefer to avoid leaving stationed only on German soil land-based missiles capable of knocking out second-wave targets.

They might no longer be able to penetrate deep into Soviet territory, like the Pershing 2, but they could well strike second-wave targets of an attacking army.

Neighbouring European countries where modernised Pershing 1s might be stationed are not keen on the idea. Belgium's de Donnea said so at the Ministerial gathering, Holland's van Eekelen at a Press conference.

The Italians, whose country might geographically rank as a suitable location, are out of action politically at present, and they could no longer hide the new systems away at the southern tip of Sicily like their complement of cruise missiles.

These tricky diplomatic problems could be neatly sidestepped via the solution that now seems to be in the offing.

If the German Pershing 1s were simply excluded from any agreement as most Nato countries envisage the question of sharing them with several member-countries would no longer arise.

Another matter of at least equal importance would also be solved. The Germans set great store by being entitled to modernise the Pershing 1s which is due to phased out in 1991.

If the Soviet Union were to agree not to include them in an agreement there could no longer be any formal objection to going ahead with development of the Pershing 1b.

If, in contrast, they formed part of a potential for which ceilings were agreed the question of a modernisation ban would surely arise.

The Bonn delegation is definitely convinced that if there was an agreement replacement systems for the missiles to be withdrawn some of them would be sure to be subject to modernisation bans agreed in talks.

So even in the context of German interests as outlined by Herr Wörner there are signs that the double zero option is on the cards, subject to the conditions mentioned above, to which the Russians would merely have to agree.

Detlef Puhl

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 16 May 1987)

The German Tribune

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 3-4 Hartwicusstraße, D-2000 Hamburg 76. Tel 22 85 1, Telex 02-14733

Editor-in-chief Otto Heinz. Editor Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor Simon Burnett — Distribution manager Georgine Picone

Advertising rates list No 15

Annual subscription DM 45

Printed by CW Niemeyer-Druck, Hameln

Distributed in the USA by MASS MAILINGS Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York N.Y. 10011

Articles in THE GERMAN TRIBUNE are translated from the original text and published by agreement with leading newspapers in the Federal Republic of Germany

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper between asterisks, above your address

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Minister sent in to sort out CDU branch quarrel

The CDU in North Rhine-Westphalia hopes that its internal wrangling will end with the appointment of Bonn Employment Minister Norbert Blüm as chairman of the *Land* party, the biggest branch in the country.

The dispute has damaged the party's image and lost it supporters in an important part of the country that includes the Ruhr basin. The outgoing chairman, Kurt Biedenkopf, was not the man to unite it. He has been criticised as being egocentric and aloof with a preference for using intellect when political tact was needed.

The branch consists of two halves: North Rhine and Westphalia. They were merged in March last year. Leadership involves reconciling interests: Westphalians regard Rhinelanders as being crafty. Rhinelanders regard Westphalians as being slow and stubborn.

Blüm is the kind of man many would have preferred as leader immediately after the merger.

It now looks like the end of the road for Biedenkopf, who was elected leader for want of a better alternative.

The fact that Blüm unwillingly takes over the biggest single CDU organisation (257,000 members) and that Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl had to put pressure on him to accept does not weaken the new mood of optimism among officials in the region.

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Blüm may find that being a regional party chairman is not that bad after all. If he does well, he might even be chosen as the candidate for Premier in the 1990 state election.

This would produce a campaign between two evenly matched opponents: Blüm and the Social Democrat Premier, Johannes Rau.

The 500 CDU delegates at the CDU conference in Essen can be expected to do everything to make sure Blüm gets a good start.

Blüm, a man with a natural sense of humour and a vivid orator, has the personality to win support in this region.

He is highly respected as an authority on employment problems, a clear advantage in the crisis-prone Ruhr area.

Biedenkopf's replacement by Blüm is a watershed in the party's history. Many regional CDU politicians feel that the merger of the two old branches can only now begin in earnest.

Professor Biedenkopf, often criticised as egocentric and aloof by party-political friend and foe alike, was not the man to foster cooperation.

His successor Blüm is a kind of tribune of the people, a politician who has made a career for himself in and via the party.

Blüm spreads the rank-and-file we-feeling in a way Biedenkopf never could. He knows how to deal with intrigues behind the scenes and is an expert in negotiating compromises.

Biedenkopf, who became general-secretary of the CDU in the 1970s following a period as the head of a university and an industrial executive, lacked this background.

He always attached greater importance to intellectual superiority than political trends.

In this respect, he has not learnt from experience since he became head of the CDU in Westphalia in 1977.

Politically, Biedenkopf has failed. The fact that the CDU, which owes a great deal to Biedenkopf even if it is unwilling to admit it, may offer him a highly remunerated political post by way of compensation cannot alter this fundamental realisation.

In view of the structure of the CDU in North Rhine-Westphalia Biedenkopf was doomed to failure.

Leadership in this region not only involves reconciling the interests of the people from the Rhineland, whom the Westphalians regard as crafty, and the Westphalians, whom the people from the Rhineland regard as slow and stubborn.

Considerable tact and sensitivity are also needed when dealing with the conflicts between the various interest groups in this influential party organisation.

The small businesses lobby, the industry lobby, the CDU's social committees and the women's organisations all have to be included in the strategy of a regional party leader.

Blüm, for example, may not find it all that easy to get on with the industry lobby.

Biedenkopf, who was always on the verge of over-estimating his abilities, made the mistake of misinterpreting his triumphant election as party chairman last year as a personal vote of confidence and a breakthrough to greater political power.

It now looks as if Biedenkopf was the only person not to realise that this demonstration of unity was primarily an attempt to put the party back on its feet after its extremely disappointing showing (36.5 per cent) in the last election in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Rarely has a party chairman miscalculated his chances so completely as Kurt Biedenkopf.

While he was working out a strategy to save his skin, developments in the party just passed him by. When the CDU's parliamentary party in the North Rhine-Westphalia *Landtag* seriously began "mutineering" against their chairman on 5 May the chairman himself was at a birthday party.



The reluctant peacemaker ... Norbert Blüm. (Photo: Poly-Press)

When, two days later, the decision was taken in Bonn to replace Biedenkopf by Blüm the man at the centre of the controversy was on a flying visit to Bavaria.

In retrospect, it is quite conceivable that the parliamentary party's vote against Biedenkopf would have been less clear had Biedenkopf been in the room himself.

The changing of the guard in the North Rhine-Westphalian CDU will not automatically resolve its problems.

It does, however, give the party a new opportunity to get things straightened out.

Karlegon Halbach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 11 May 1987)

The fall of the conservative's 'think tank'

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Kurt Biedenkopf has made it clear that he will not be handing over the chairmanship of the CDU in North Rhine-Westphalia of his own free will.

The 57-year-old professor described the circumstances surrounding this setback to his political career by saying: "I have been reminded of my duty and shall perform this duty in the interests of the party."

There was an unmistakable touch of sarcasm in his voice when he replied to the question of whether there had been any pressure on him: "I never feel that I have been pressurised when reminded of my duties."

Nothing more to be rivals about ... Kurt Biedenkopf (right), the outgoing North Rhine-Westphalia chairman and his deputy, Dieter Pützhofen, who is also losing his post. (Photo: Sven Simon)

By he didn't want to overdo the self-denial bit, so he added: "I mean, I'm not exactly happy."

The final act of the tragedy concerning the first party executive committee of the CDU's North Rhine-Westphalia section was scheduled to take place at an executive committee meeting in Neuss.

Biedenkopf's deputy and rival, Dieter Pützhofen, continued his policy of pin-pricks up until the very end.

Whereas CDU general-secretary, Heiner Geissler, and Biedenkopf remained resolutely silent following the executive committee meeting in the Bonn headquarters, Pützhofen openly announced its outcome.

He told journalists that Biedenkopf would no longer be running as a candidate for party chairmanship in North Rhine-Westphalia and that Norbert Blüm would be his successor.

Yet this was not the hour of triumph for Pützhofen. As the regional organisation intends appointing a regional general— secretary in future he will lose his post as deputy party chairman.

An observer summed up the fate of the man often called "the Kennedy of the Lower Rhine" in a nutshell: "The price for the political murder of Biedenkopf was suicide." A clear case of divided we stand, united we fall.

The fate of both politicians seemed sealed at the very latest by the demands for their resignation made by the CSU parliamentary party in the Düsseldorf *Landtag* on 5 May.

The CDU headquarters in Bonn was also increasingly annoyed at the damage being done to the party image as a whole by the quarreling in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The fact that the crisis of leadership in this region was solved by the CDU's party chairman and Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl is a particularly bitter blow for Biedenkopf.

Despite their cooperation at the top of the CDU in the 1970s Kohl and Biedenkopf are known not to get on well.

And of all people it was Kohl who has more or less ousted the man who was once regarded by many as a potential candidate for chancellorship himself.

Biedenkopf already suffered a defeat against Kohl in 1983 when Kohl's man, Bernard Worms, was chosen to replace Biedenkopf as the CDU's leading candidate and opposition leader.

Strangely enough, it was Kohl who paved the way for Biedenkopf's acceptance as the party's business manager in 1973.

Biedenkopf soon gained a reputation as an astute and analytical thinker and was often described as the "think tank" of the CDU/CSU.

His decision not to take on the post of business manager in 1977 was interpreted as a clear preference for regional political activities.

Michael Backhaus

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 9 May 1987)

THE ARMED FORCES

The man behind the image of the modern Bundeswehr

Sometimes the Bundeswehr has trouble choosing men and ideals to model itself on.

Because of recent history, the choice is limited and therefore most outstanding men tend, rightly or wrongly, to be controversial.

Not so Wolf Baudissin, 80, a "founding father" of the Bundeswehr and a legend in his lifetime.

He coined the concept of the "citizen in uniform," an approach to the armed forces that has gained acceptance after initial difficulties.

Yet not even General Baudissin would — one fancies — be prepared to say whether it has prevailed once and for all.

In 1951, when he was requested by the predecessor of the Defence Ministry in Bonn to draw up ideas on what shape a new German army might take, there were no preconceived ideas and all options were open.

He did not jump at the prospect of planning a new model army, he says. So shortly after the total collapse of Germany and the Wehrmacht there had to be a fresh start; it couldn't just be "rearm and get on with it."

Starting from scratch was no easy task because the starting-point was a drastic change. Germany was divided. The new Bundeswehr, Germany's first conscript army, was allied with the country's wartime opponents. Nuclear weapons rewrote military textbooks.

But the crux was the frame of mind or mental outlook of an officer corps accustomed to discipline and obeying orders.

At a time when officers in the newly-established Bundeswehr were inevitably former Wehrmacht officers Baudissin's concept of "inner leadership" was bound to be seen as left-wing, not to say revolutionary.

There was no lack malevolent and at times downright silly misinterpretation of his job. Laying the groundwork for a new type of soldier more attuned to the times has made slow headway, beset by obstruction.

Baudissin's military career was irreproachable. He began in a crack infantry regiment in Potsdam and was taken prisoner in 1943 by the British in North Africa as a staff major under Rommel.

After the war he served as a senior staff officer in the Bundeswehr and in Nato, retiring in 1967 with the rank of lieutenant-general.

Yet one cannot help feeling that he was sidelined or promoted out of harm's way at various stages of his career as what, among other ranks, might be called a troublemaker.

He was surely predestined to end his career as inspector-general of the Bundeswehr yet he failed to do so.

Inner leadership and citizen in uniform are both concepts regarded nowadays as a matter of course. They have definitely made their mark on the Bundeswehr — despite traditionalists.

The serviceman "who is capable, by virtue of critical understanding and a vigilant conscience, of thinking for himself, of sharing responsibility and of acting independently while obeying orders for reasons other than pressure or fear of punishment" is no longer a mere figment of the imagination.

Yet it is in need of constant renewal. What is the position now, 35 years since Baudissin first drew up the concept?

It is, he says, a concept aimed first and foremost at officers. One wonders how keen Bundeswehr officers are to spread the Baudissin message.

Military activity is unthinkable without a political connotation, yet politics, widely seen in terms of party politics, is a topic dealt with sparingly and delicately in the armed forces. One result is that old barriers have not been lifted. Officers who followed Baudissin's example and joined trade unions to eliminate longstanding mistrust of the armed forces by the working class are still the exception.



Count Wolf Baudissin . . . architect of an army. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Soldiers have nonetheless increasingly come to regard their trade as a job like any other, due in part to the growing technical complexity of arms and equipment.

The purpose of an army in a constitutionally governed country is another matter — one that is all too readily disregarded.

Baudissin feels his concept of inner leadership is in jeopardy, with superficial routine, red tape and a technocratic outlook threatening to gain the upper hand.

Even so, as he says, the Bundeswehr has gained a place in society alongside the railways and the postal service, the educational system and the inland revenue.

It has come to be seen as part of everyday life, which he could hardly have anticipated when he first formulated his concept.

From 1968 he taught strategy at Hamburg University. As director of its peace research institute he successfully dealt with arms control and peace preservation issues.

His views hold authority and one can but hope they continue to do so despite his four score years.

Claus Marquart

(Mannheimer Morgen, 8 May 1987)

All-male domain except for some doctors

Should women serve in the armed forces? This political evergreen has resurfaced with the go-ahead from Federal Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann for women recruits to the *Bundesgrenzschutz*, or Federal Border Patrol.

This move is bound to establish a precedent for the Bundeswehr, where at present only a handful of women — doctors in the medical corps — wear uniform.

An initial 30 women Border Patrol recruits are to serve alongside the men on completing basic training — and they will bear arms.

That can hardly be reconciled with Basic Law, Article 12a of which says that women may "on no account bear arms."

Bonn is clearly prepared to risk a constitutional appeal on this issue. Women recruits to the *Bundesgrenzschutz* seem to be a test case.

They are certainly a case of kite-flying. If the kite is flown without objection and the Opposition does not oppose it too staunchly it can only be a matter of time before the Bundeswehr recruits women to make up numbers in the 1990s.

A decision has yet to be reached on the uniforms women members of the *Bundesgrenzschutz* are to wear, but that is clearly a mere detail.

Isolde Haug

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 6 May 1987)

Conscientious objection wins support

The Human Rights Commission in Geneva is the first UN body to advocate acknowledging the right to refuse military service.

It has approved a resolution calling on states to recognise conscientious objection as a bona fide exercise of the right to freedom of opinion, conscience and belief.

This right is part of the UN General Declaration on Human Rights and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights.

The 10 March Geneva resolution is mainly the result of years of effort by non-government organisations to have conscientious objection to military service recognised as a human right.

In 1978 the UN General Assembly recognised the right of all to refuse to serve in military and police units deployed to uphold apartheid.

Subsequent efforts to have this resolution extended have been stymied by the East Bloc and a number of developing countries.

Progress was made when Asbjørn Eide and Chama Mubanga-Chipoya submitted their report, commissioned by the UN organisation in 1981.

The two peace experts recommended legal recognition of the right to refuse military service on grounds of conscience and the establishment of an alternative to military service for conscientious objectors.

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

This alternative, they suggest, should include social work and work for peace, development and international understanding.

The Human Rights Commission took up these recommendations and in its Geneva resolution called on governments "to adopt measures aimed at exemption from military service on the basis of a genuine refusal to bear arms on grounds of conscience."

Countries with general conscription are advised to set up various forms of alternative service that can be reconciled with the reasons for conscientious objection. Objectors ought not to be imprisoned.

The surprise vote in favour of this resolution was a result of abstention by the socialist countries, with only Iraq and Mozambique voting against it.

The resolution can be seen as a milestone toward international recognition of the right to refuse military service. But it could still be a while before a similar resolution is approved by the UN General Assembly.

The UN Secretary-General will first draw up a report based on comments made by member-countries. This report will be submitted to the Human Rights Commission, which is to consider further measures at its next session.

Yet the resolution shows there is a trend toward recognition of conscientious objection. It is a sign of hope for objectors in about 40 countries with general conscription where conscientious objection is not recognised.

Guido Grunewald

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 3 May 1987)

Widespread discussion planned for women-in-uniform idea

Frankfurter Neue Presse

Parliamentary state secretary Agnes Hürland-Büning of the Bonn Defence Ministry says the Bundeswehr is to try out women in uniform from 1990.

On her first tour of the forces, which took her to 21 Anti-Aircraft Missile Sqn in Datteln, she said she had suggested the idea to Defence Minister Wörner.

Frau Hürland is a Christian Democrat. Her suggestion came under prompt fire from the Social Democrats, who warned against any further militarisation of society on the pretext of equal rights and opportunities.

She said she felt sure there were women who would like to serve, with equal rights, in one branch or another of the armed forces.

Women should wear uniform and have the same promotion prospects as men. But, in keeping with Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, they should not have to bear arms.

Frau Hürland is keen to discuss the proposal with women's associations, churches and trade unions and to find out more about conditions in other countries, bearing in mind that women serve in most armies.

The Bundeswehr has a mere 80 women in uniform. They are doctors in the medical corps.

The German army has fewer women in uniform than any other Nato country. Between them the Nato countries have over 250,000 women in uniform.

dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 2 May 1987)

THE BARBIE TRIAL

Maître Vergès and the case within the case

Klaus Barbie's lawyer, Jacques Vergès, intends giving his fellow Frenchmen a lesson in history.

Which members of the French Resistance helped the Nazis? How is it that Barbie can be tried but not Frenchmen for atrocities during the Algerian war? These are part of Vergès' line of attack.

It is not likely to be popular. Most of France is not too keen on Verges' kind of historical tuition.

Most just want the Butcher of Lyons to be sentenced to life imprisonment or death. That, at any rate, is what 72 per cent of respondents in a French opinion poll said they wanted.

Their interest centres on the verdict, not on the legal details, and certainly not on the background information.

Yet it is precisely this information on which Maitre Vergès wishes to focus his history lesson.

He wants to hold up a mirror to his fellow citizens and force them to accept that "the banality of evil" (Hannah Arendt) is not a specifically German phenomenon.

Vergès' aim is not to cleanse the former SS member Klaus Barbie, who was already sentenced for his war crimes in the 1950s, of guilt. This is not possible anyway.

His aim is to try and stop his fellow Frenchmen living a lie. However, a collective loss of memory and the legends which have stabilised the self-confidence of post-war France are stubborn opponents.

Serge Klarsfeld, the lawyer who as joint plaintiff represents the interests of the surviving dependants of deported Jewish children, is aware of all this.

In December 1980, long before Barbie's extradition to France, he told the West German weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* about a fellow Frenchman who claimed to have seen "how the Germans locked up the Jews in the Vélodrome d'Hiver (in Paris) and how the Nazis threw Jewish children on to lorries."

Klarsfeld had to correct the man's description: "That's something you could not have seen, since they were no Germans there."

The occupying forces were able to leave this kind of dirty work up to French helpers.

Most people, however, have banished such thoughts from their minds.

The defence counsel in the case of Resistance leader Jean Moulin came across similar gaps in the memories of witnesses.

When news came that Barbie would be extradited the press speculated that it would now be possible to clarify why the leader of the French Resistance movement, Jean Moulin, was betrayed to the Germans.

Although he was a Communist, Moulin is one of the many national heroes in the Panthéon.

In the meantime, however, not everyone in France is interested in the divulgence of this secret by Barbie.

Was Moulin betrayed by members of the Resistance who feared that such a dominating figure might make the left the leading force in post-war France?

Frenchmen who arrested Jews and brought them to the trains bound for the extermination camps; Frenchmen who betrayed the leader of the Resistance, now a national hero — all this does not fit in with the carefully fostered legend of a united nation which stood up against the German occupying forces despite ideological and political differences.

Even this is not enough for Vergès, who cannot understand why an aged Nazi has to stand trial for crimes against humanity, whereas the atrocities committed by Frenchmen during the Algerian war are left unpunished.

As Jürg Altwegg writes this may sound like "macabre logic". Yet the question is justified: is a double standard being operated?

After all, the principles laid down in the Nuremberg war crime trials also apply to France.

To avoid any misunderstandings, this is not an attempt to pave the way for a relativisation of Nazi crimes.

However, if the Barbie trial is to serve a purpose other than that of a belated atonement it must be made clear that the values of law and democracy, humanity and tolerance are also threatened today.

During the Eichmann trial Hannah Arendt was "amazed at the obvious shallowness of the perpetrator, which made it impossible to trace the undeniably evil nature of his deeds back to any deeper roots or motives."

In her opinion, thoughtlessness and not stupidity was the key to Eichmann's crimes.

Such "lack of thought" can be discovered wherever crimes are committed against humanity.

Barbie, for example, was asked by a reporter several years ago whether he had any sense of remorse. "Why should I feel remorse? Everyone kills in a war . . .," he replied.

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Under French law there is a 20-year limit for prosecuting war crimes, but no such limit for crimes against humanity.

For this reason the examining magistrate at the Lyons trial, Christian Riss, has had to keep the list of charges against Barbie on a low flame.

Barbie cannot be tried in Lyons for Moulin's death or for the murder of 4,300 Resistance fighters.

Compulsory deportation, however, which Barbie is accused of having organised, is a crime against humanity according to the principles laid down in Nuremberg.

The case, therefore, would seem to be clear. Investigators, however, needed four years to draw up a list of charges.

The idea of turning the whole affair into a kind of French Eichmann trial was dropped. The circumstances of this case are too complicated.

Even if the court were to heed the advice of the politicians and make Nazi ideology and not just Barbie himself the focus of the trial, collaboration and the deeply-rooted anti-semitism of the 3. Republic, which made it easier for people like Barbie to perpetrate their

Continued on page 6



'Everyone kills in war'... Klaus Barbie. (Photo: dpa)

No illusions about verdict

WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE

The tempting thought on looking at Klaus Barbie is that something is wrong. How could this frail, watery-eyed old man on trial in Lyons possibly have been a brutal Gestapo officer?

The temptation is to think that he turned over a new leaf in the decades after the war. But these are false impressions. Barbie did not change his views. He simply took advantage of the confusion of the post-war and "Cold War" years.

After things got too hot in Germany in the wake of French investigations into war crimes, the Americans helped Barbie and his family travel to South America.

Memories of the various stages in Barbie's life have led to uneasy feelings in many countries about what he might say during the trial.

Some people would prefer to see the former SS man in a grave rather than behind a bullet-proof glass panel in a Lyons court room.

There is already a great deal of talk about the strategies of Barbie's lawyer, Jacques Vergès, about his skills and diversionary tactics.

This should not, however, blind the public to the fact that Barbie, who is still mentally alert, pulls the strings. He is directing Vergès, not the other way round.

Barbie will do all he can to expose the extent of collaboration with the Germans.

With the help of his lawyer he will sow the seeds of discord among the French population and try to demonstrate how collaborators made is easy for him to track down members of the Resistance, whom he regarded as terrorists.

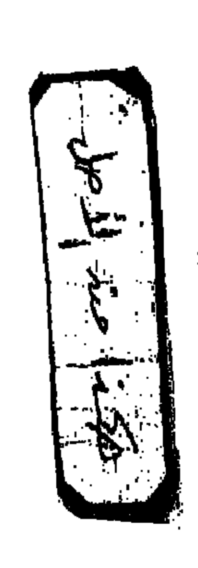
It was Barbie's idea to mention the atrocities committed by the French in Algeria and raise the question as to when these crimes will be prosecuted.

Klaus Barbie is the diabolic protagonist in Lyons. He is fortunate to have, in Vergès, a brilliant lawyer who probably has his own reasons for hating society.

Nevertheless, Barbie should not have any illusions about the probable verdict.

Emil Bölte

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 11 May 1987)



■ THE WORKFORCE

Coming to terms with the change from a manufacturing to a service society

Since Jacques Fourastié's famous book The Great Hope of the 20th Century, written in the late 1940s, we have all known where we are heading: toward a service society.

The trend has consistently borne out the French thinker's forecast.

Just as structures evolved from the primary production sector, agriculture or mining, to industrial production and, with it, to the secondary sector, the net product has shifted over the past 30 years toward the tertiary, or service sector.

The mechanism that lies behind this trend is straightforward. Progress in production techniques that can, in a word, be described as rationalisation have, fortunately, had two complementary effects.

First, increasing automation has made it possible to manufacture more and more goods with less and less human labour.

This growth in productivity has ensured that industrial goods have, occasionally in absolute and invariably in relative terms, grown less expensive.

That leads in turn to a steady reduction in the proportion of earnings required to arrive at a specific standard of living in consumer goods terms.

Conversely, more money is available to be spent on other goods or services — especially the latter.

This is the fact that has led to a way above-average increase in demand for services in the past 20 to 30 years, which in turn has saved us from an inconceivable level of unemployment.

Just as industry took up labour released from agriculture, the various service trades, in the public and private sectors, have absorbed much of the labour made redundant in manufacturing industry.

This structural change, which has taken place in accordance with the laws of the market place, with neither influence nor control from the state, is impressive by virtue of its sheer size.

In 1960 agriculture and forestry still accounted for 5.8 and manufacturing industry for 53.2 per cent of GNP, as against the service sector's 40.9 per cent.

Twenty-five years later the ratio has changed as follows: agriculture and forestry 1.7, manufacturing industry 42.2 and the tertiary sector 56.1 per cent.

These changes are reflected in employment statistics. In 1960 the service trades accounted for 38 per cent of the work force. By 1985 the figure had increased to 53.6 per cent.

There have been corresponding declines in the other categories: from 13.7 to 5.4 per cent in agriculture and forestry and from 47.9 to 41 per cent in manufacturing industry.

Süddeutsche Zeitung

This revolutionary change has by no means come to an end. Rationalisation in industry continues to "save" labour, which results in redundancies wherever there is no corresponding growth.

This being so, it seems reasonable to assume that one of the reasons for the ongoing high level of unemployment in the Federal Republic is a rate of change to the service sector that is too slow.

This line of argument cannot be dismissed out of hand inasmuch as new jobs created in the United States in recent years have, for the most part, been created in the tertiary sector.

The way in which they have been created need not necessarily be an example for us to follow. Most of the new jobs are poorly paid and had to be taken on in many cases by much more highly-skilled men so they could make ends meet.

Yet the trend still clearly indicates where, now and in future, employment opportunities are to be sought.

Much the same can be said of the Federal Republic, except that many legislative and wage agreement provisions make it difficult to meet the demand for services.

As a result, demand is unable to develop and jobs are lost (or fail, in the final analysis, to be created).

One of numerous instances is the persistent refusal by German trade unions, in the current wage talks round, even to consider late opening one day a week or Saturday morning opening of banks.

No-one expects bank staff to work more or longer, whereas refusal to consider the idea prevents the creation of a substantial number of badly-needed part-time jobs that would enable the banks to extend their opening hours.

Much the same is true of the entire retail trade. What, for that matter, are we to make of Bonn amending shop opening hours legislation to make just a slight improvement, whereupon the *Länder*, especially Bavaria, with its political leaders' pretensions to market economy views, imposes administrative bans on longer opening hours at traffic junctions?

"We aren't available to provide banking services when our clients have the time," Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen recently noted.

That is indeed a most unsatisfactory state of affairs.

The absurdities to which strict regimentation can lead are seen at many filling stations with late opening hours that stock a range of goods little short of a department store's. These extra items, ranging from schnapps to recorded cassettes, earn them more money than the motor fuel they sell in the forecourt.

Helmut Maier-Mannhart

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 9 May 1987)

Shop closing times

Spain: No restrictions
Sweden: No restrictions
France: No restrictions
Norway: 17^{00} — Until 19^{00} on Fridays
Denmark: 17^{30} — + 6 hours a week
Holland: 18^{00} — Until 21^{00} on Thurs or Fri
Austria: 18^{00} – 18^{30}*
Germany: 18^{30} — Until 22^{00} in certain areas
Switz.: 18^{30} – 19^{00} — Once a week until 21^{00} or 22^{00}
Britain: 20^{00} — On Fridays until 21^{00}
Belgium: 20^{00} — On Fridays until 21^{00}
Italy: 22^{00}

* An hour later in tourist areas

© Globus

Striking bank workers demolish their placid reputation

Bank workers are involved in an industrial dispute the like of which hasn't been seen since the Federal Republic was founded nearly 40 years ago.

Trade unions and other observers have been amazed by the sight of bankers, including managers and non-union employees, taking to the streets is an astounding display of feeling from a normally placid section of the workforce.

Lorenz Schwegler, chief wage negotiator of HBV, the bank and insurance workers' union, says: "There is more action among bank staff than at any time since Oppenheim started banking in Cologne 200 years ago."

After four rounds of talks pay negotiations broke down on 23 April in an odd manner, with no mention even being made of wages.

Instead of talking about wage percentages the two sides crossed swords over flexi-time and Saturday opening arrangements.

Yet unlike the wage agreement, which has expired, the framework agreement covering details of this kind has neither expired nor been served noticed by either side.

The trade union accuses the employers of being to blame for the failure of wage talks by insisting that wage increases can only be considered in return for greater flexibility.

The unions are prepared to discuss working hours. They are not categorically opposed to working longer in the evening or to opening on Saturday mornings. But they want a binding framework wage agreement.

"Otherwise," Herr Schwegler says, "wage talks will end up being a junk shop for welfare provisions, with more money only being paid if the family silver of welfare provisions is traded in."

The union feels strong enough to consider industrial action. This time, unlike past occasions, the united front of HBV and the white-collar union, DAG, seems unlikely to come apart at the seams.

In the past the banks have often first

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

come to terms with the DAG, leaving the HBV and its demands high and dry.

There is a special reason why bank staff feel more self-confident. "The banks," Herr Schwegler says, "can be hurt by strike action. The new technologies provide unprecedented new opportunities."

A warning strike at Dresdner Bank put the message across most pointedly. Industrial action at the bank's central computer had repercussions on every branch in the country.

The computer operators worked to rule and customers soon noticed the effect.

By starting late the computer staff delayed the entire morning's business by an entire hour. Automatic telling machines and terminals that print out bank statements can only work when the computer is operational.

If computer staff down tools bank clerks have to go back to longhand.

Computer centres are the nerve — and neuralgic — centres of modern highly-automated banking. Each leading bank employs only 100-150 staff at its computer centre.

About 50 of them keep the computer operational, and an above-average proportion of them are union members.

Only 55,000 of 380,000 German bank staff are union members, so the union makes a virtue out of necessity and concentrates on selected strikes at varying points of organisation.

HBV feels the bank dispute is a new departure in wage talks, the first time industrial action has ever been undertaken solely with salaried staffs.

Union officials are doubtful whether bank staffs' mobilisation will be more than a flash in the pan.

It sees the issues at stake this year as the reason why staff are so incensed. Working late and at weekends worries them, as does the intransigent stand taken by their employers.

Lorenz Schwegler feels almost grateful to his opposite numbers, suggesting that the employers' spokesman should be made an honorary life member of the union.

"He has done more to mobilise union support among bank staff than I have managed in eight years," he says.

Michael Heller

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 7 May 1987)

Continued from page 5

bloody crimes, would still be discussed.

This does not exonerate the Germans and should not lead to the "clandestine pleasure" one Paris newspaper claims some Germans will derive from the case.

The French daily *Le Matin* described the unpleasant truth which France must face as follows: "The executioner's assistants are also executioners."

Wolfgang Schmieg

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 11 May 1987)

■ FINANCE

Europe's agriculture policy bears out oil-slick theory

DIE WELT

The grand old man of liberal economic theory, Friedrich August von Hayek, devised his oil slick theory before the European agricultural market was founded.

Many felt at the time that his theory, which is that subsidies, regimentation and production restraint once begun spread inexorably like an oil slick in water, was too mechanistic.

But Europe's common agricultural policy fully bears it out.

In March, for instance, European Community Agriculture Ministers agreed on an "extensification supplement" for cereal acreage — a bonus for farmers who are prepared to stop growing surplus grain.

The aim is to curb surplus production on a voluntary basis. The European Community is to foot 25 per cent of the bill, with member-countries individually meeting the remainder of the cost.

It stands to reason that output will only decline if: a) one farmer decides to stop growing crops and b) another doesn't grow more and take his place.

Otherwise the whole idea would be a waste of time and money, always assuming a heavy outlay on the scheme in the Federal Republic. Yet no-one seems to have wondered whether the idea might backfire. Instead, Bonn Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle advocates national cereal quotas.

He doesn't propose to dictate to farmers how much grain they are to harvest (milk production is already regimented in this way).

But what about allocation? What is to be done about farmers who overproduce, resulting in national quotas being overfulfilled?

This question does not, for the time being, need to be answered. The other European Community countries have given this German proposal the thumbs-down.

That doesn't mean everything is in order, of course. Cereal production must be curbed if an entire year's harvest is not to be stored unsold in Europe by the early 1990s.

But how: by government intervention or by restoring the regulative function of prices?

In much of the Community, especially at the European Commission in Brussels, a reappraisal has begun as funds have run low.

In Brussels preference is given, at least in principle, to an approach that is dismissed in the Federal Republic as price pressure.

Guaranteed farm prices are to take market conditions more into account. In surplus sectors, such as cereals, prices are not to be increased; in some cases they are even to be cut.

That would be sure to reduce production. It would also cut the cost of administering surpluses.

Hardship is to be offset by direct earnings bonuses that don't encourage farmers to boost production.

These bonuses are what ought to be discussed. Herr Kiechle has no objection to bonuses; he has boosted them substantially in the Federal Republic. But he feels they must not be allowed to take the place of prices policy.

He would prefer to resort to economic regimentation, curbing output by controls to a level corresponding to Community consumption.

That, assuming anything ever came of it, would lead to Europe bowing out of world markets.

The Community would no longer need to subsidise exports and farm surpluses would no longer need to be sold abroad at rock-bottom prices.

That would reduce the potential for conflict with the United States, but it would also rule out the European Community as an export market for others, which others don't view kindly.

That, they argue, can surely not be the European Community's contribution toward the next round of international trade liberalisation.

The international trade policy debate has taken a different turn. Gradual progress toward freer markets is planned, coupled with direct earnings bonuses.

The United States, which is strongly in favour of this approach, is not prepared to step up subsidies any further. America has also made it clear that it is determined to take up the challenge.

Besides, the Third World needs export markets if it is to earn foreign exchange to fund its debts.

Third World countries have come to realise that the New International Economic Order, based on a system of controls, would do them more harm than good. This is a point that deserves not to be forgotten.

Hans-Jürgen Mahnke

(Die Welt, Bonn, 7 May 1987)

Brussels ploy only a fig-leaf

European Community Finance Ministers, faced with the prospect of a further budget deficit, heard what the European Commission had to suggest in Brussels then went away without taking any decisions of note.

The threat of insolvency has been averted by abolishing prepayment of agricultural expenditure and replacing it with a system of refunds.

But this ploy cannot hide the fact that the Twelve are still spending much more than they earn.

Understandably the Commission is thinking foremost about higher revenue of its own.

But that cannot be the right approach. As long as spending continues to increase unabated, as long as Agriculture Ministers continue to agree on exaggeratedly high farm price guarantees and as long as the Commission continues to propose doubling the structural fund there can be no question of providing more cash.

That is a point Bonn would do well to bear in mind even if, in deference to farmers, it might not be averse to increasing Community funding.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 May 1987)

OECD acts on farm surpluses



The 24 Western industrial member-countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have agreed on a concerted cutback of international agricultural surpluses.

At the Paris session of the OECD Council of Ministers this target was endorsed, subject to a "gradual and coordinated reducion in support for agricultural production and all other suitable means."

The OECD countries have undertaken to dispense with any further increase in existing farm subsidies and measures with a protectionist effect pending agreement at the current Gatt trade talks round.

Spokesmen for the United States, which championed agreement on these terms, said it was a breakthrough and a historic juncture for freer agricultural markets.

America was keen to persuade the OECD to agree to scrap production-related farm subsidies and replace them with straight payments to farmers.

Bonn insisted on a flexible approach to reducing surplus output.

The German delegation, led by Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann, chairman of the OECD Council of Ministers, succeeded in persuading the others to agree to "appropriate" rather than "increasing" direct income subsidies paid to farmers.

In this the Federal Republic was backed by a majority of European Community countries, according to members of the German delegation.

They felt that what mattered most was to jointly set about achieving the target of a permanent reduction in farm surpluses.

The methods employed might vary — and should be allowed to do so — in keeping with structural differences between countries.

The German delegation had no objection to phasing out the policy of guaranteed prices for specific farm produce but was not prepared to forgo the option of influencing output by means of quotas, incentives to stop growing crops and provisions for early retirement.

The Council session eased pressure on the Federal Republic, especially by the United States, to give the German economy a boost.

The Bonn delegation pointed out that part of the 1988 tax cuts package was to be brought forward. The communiqué noted Germany's further readiness to adjust economic policy "flexibly with regard to timing and measures undertaken" if targets were not achieved.

US Treasury Secretary James Baker was satisfied with the result of the Paris talks.

Stabilisation of the dollar exchange rate and implementation of undertakings previously made in this connection were, he said, indispensable. The 1988 US budget deficit was to be reduced by a further $20bn.

He expected economic growth in the OECD countries to increase to between 2.5 and 3 per cent again, especially as Japan had agreed to a further fiscal reform package.

dpa/vwd

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 14 May 1987)



■ CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Officials keep quiet about rotten eggs

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Consumers have reacted to news about rotten eggs being used to make noodles and other pasta-type products by boycotting them.

The information has not officially been made public. The German firms have not been named so that all makers are being hit by the boycott.

The Baden-Württemberg *Land* Health Ministry knew at the beginning of April that a Belgian firm called Belovo was sending rotten liquid egg to four German noodle makers. But it took a month before the news emerged.

The Minister, Barbara Schäfer, a Christian Democrat, said in a statement justifying the decision not to name names, that companies must be protected just as much as consumers.

That is not only putting the cart before the horse. It has also badly shaken people's trust in government. Most consumers tend to presume that foodstuff producers act responsibly and that Health Ministry official make sure the law is observed.

To say that this case is a disappointment is an understatement. In spite of Frau Schäfer's statement, no one can understand how a month could pass before the information got out.

The case is even less easy to understand when it is remembered that in 1985 there was a similar case when a Dutch firm was found to have been supplying rotten egg to German noodles makers.

The law does not require public officials to name firms using ingredients unfit for human consumption in their products.

Noodles makers are expressing surprise that the public is boycotting their products: it is surprising that they are surprised.

Instead, they should be doing something about the black sheep in their ranks.

Innocent firms and consumers have only the State Health Ministry to turn to for information about what can be eaten and what not. That looks now to be a doubtful option.

Especially since the same government was slow to act over the last rotten-egg scandal, over the glycol antifreeze wine scandal, over another scandal involving adulterated beer and another over deep-frozen foods.

Public health is at risk and the regulations need to be changed. In a hurry.

Confusing and malleable legislation invites skulduggery. According to the law liquid egg has to be used within 24 hours of its being prepared. But there is frequently no controls where there should be, that is at production points not in laboratories some way off.

This must be changed, for only then will it be possible to uncover criminal machinations, only then will it be possible to prevent the use of rotten ingedients.

All producers must be obliged to follow the guidelines, introduced voluntarily by Baden-Württemberg producers of "Swabian ravioli," after the last scandal that hit them so badly.

These guidelines control foodstuffs before and after processing. Rotten eggs are destroyed and not left so that the unscrupulous can fish around in mucky liquid egg to make some cash.

The European Community egg market regulations also invite skulduggery. Under these regulations the country of origin is displayed on packing in code numbers which mean nothing to the consumer.

It is no secret that eggs produced cheaply with European Community subsidies are re-packed in the Federal Republic and sold as "fresh" eggs. These eggs, at least, should not be described as "fresh" simply because of the long distance they have to travel to West Germany and the time they spend in refrigerated warehouses.

Furthermore no one supervises these eggs to see whether the hens were fed with feed without anti-biotic additives or whether the eggs come from unhealthy hens.

Political lesson

The 80 family firm members of the poultry asociation of Baden-Württemberg have applied their own controls and have voluntarily joined the animal health service. Legislation must be introduced along the lines of these controls.

So long as nothing is done citizens will be mistrustful, not only of the small and large scoundrels, but also of every elected representative, who seems to have forgotten that he or she is in government to represent the interests of all the people, not just a specific lobby.

Health Minister Schäfer has failed to strengthen public confidence in politicians. It is not only eggs that have been broken.

Karl Geibel

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 8 May 1987)

Food poisoning increases as eating habits change

The amount of food poisoning and other illnesses caused by unfit food is increasing heavily. Twenty years ago there were only 5,000 salmonella cases reported a year. Now there are almost 10 times that.

Other types of stomach and intestinal illnesses have increased by comparable amounts. The World Health Organisation says the cause is the trend towards cheap foods and pre-prepared meals and the increasing importance of mass catering.

As a consequence, official control of food has become more important than ever, and large producers especially are having trouble keeping up with the legal controls.

The Lufthansa-Service-Gesellschaft (LSG), the airline-catering company and the largest mass-catering organisation in the Federal Republic, is to start supervising food hygiene with a robot, believed to be the first in the world to be deployed this way.

The robot can control all production processes from the preparation of ingredients to searching out any bacterial contamination.

The crucial element is a computerised robot arm from the American company Zymark.

Fritz-Peter Gork, head of LSG quality control, along with the manufacturers, has made trials.

All the equipment necessary for tests is within the robot's reach. A computer programme, developed over a long period, controls the arm with extraordinary precision. The arm can turn on and off various pieces of laboratory equipment.

Every test process begins with the arm taking a plastic bag with the foodstuffs for testing from a cupboard. It uses a hand grip to hold the bag in a vacuum.

When the robot has weighed the test material it supplies a specific quantity of thinning material.

It is a time-consuming operation getting a precise weight of food to be tested manually.

The bag is now put in a "stomacher" that breaks up the contents.

In the meantime an appliance is disinfected and washed with water. Then some of the dissolved test material is dropped on a petri dish in a spiral form with a catalyst, the thinning agent increasing as the spiral is formed.

While the robot "changes hands" the bag is lifted out from the crusher and some of the solution is sucked into a pipette.

With its other grip arm the robot can take hold of the petri dish, lift it and put an appropriate covering on it.

The robot fetches a sterilised pipette from the cupboard. The arm handles the pipette with which a small amount of the solution is dropped on four petri dishes with various catalysts.

The dishes containing the impregnated material and the other dishes with test material are covered and placed in an incubator.

This was previously done by hand. This process can now, without difficulty be automated.

The whole process lasts only eight and a half minutes. The robot does not accelerate the growth rate of the micro-organisms. After 24 to 28 hours the bacterial colonies can be counted, but it takes many days before the mould develops.

LSG experts are primarily concerned with the germ count and the entero-bacteria, that can be seen on the spiral-*form* test material in the dishes.

To the uninitiated the germ count seems extraordinarily high. According to LSG standards a gram of sausage or salad that contains 100,000 micro-organisms is well up to quality.

The danger point is when bacterial pathogenes that could cause illness are found in the food. The most important groups can be seen as pointed drops in the dishes.

A gram of the foodstuff should not include more than 1,000 *entero-bacteria* and not more than ten specimens of the strain escherichia coli.

In cases of salmonella contamination, the most common, the limit is much lower; no strain of the bacteria must be in a 25-gram sample.

Staphylococci are much more difficult to trace. These pathogenes are the most usual cause of foodstuffs contamination. The symptoms begin swiftly and just as quickly disappear.

Official guidelines for germ count are only given for drinking water, ice cream and dried foods, excluding diet foods.

Extensive food controls, such as those applied voluntarily by LSG and other large producers, cannot guarantee consumers absolute safety.

For mass catering tests must of necessity be reduced to just samplings and meals are often eaten before there is time to test them.

There are a large number of regulations controlling hygiene for particularly critical products such as cream, sausage and smoked fish.

There are changes in the controls depending on the time of the year. They are more strict in summer than at the beginning of the year.

Reinhard Wandtner

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 May 1987)

Sampling the culinary delights of streptococci a go-go

The words of official food controllers should be savoured — references to a putrid, faecal odour; 850,000 faecal streptococci all capable of multiplying. These delicacies are served up and called ravioli, pasta or meatballs.

Enjoy your meal — and thank the greed of a few members of the foodstuff industry. What has emerged could be termed a disgrace — but that is too mild.

To add to the scandal there is the fact that officials have concealed things. No one admits to knowing what happened. Everyone is hiding behind certificates, reports and other pieces of paper of doubtful value.

The Baden-Württemberg Health Minister, Barbara Schäfer, beats everything when she says that the whole business (using bad liquid egg) is "nauseating" but she makes no mention of it being a danger to health.

What can a hard-working consumer do about it all? Does he have to give up his life through adulterated wine before the authorities do anything more than gently wag a warning finger at the culprits?



Every sausage stall is controlled from morning until night if there is a hint that hygiene regulations are not being kept.

Mankind is weak. When there is a chance of high profits morality and propriety fly through the window.

There is only one thing for the foodstuffs industry — controls, controls and more controls. Producers who are not voluntarily prepared to supply pure products must have their hands inspected every single day, when necessary with the help of stricter legislation.

The conclusion is that the scandals of the past few years are just the tip of the iceberg.

Consumers are again seeing on television that they are paying good money for products that are rubbish. How should we feed ourselves them in the future, with air and love?

Ruth Weinkopf

(Mannheimer Morgen, 6 May 1987)

■ THE SEA

Hard-hit shipowners turn record numbers of ships out to flags of convenience

DIE ZEIT

Caprivi was a fool, many Germans in shipping feel. Count Caprivi, Bismarck's successor as Reich Chancellor, died in 1899.

In 1890 he exchanged Zanzibar, a German colony, for Heligoland, a British North Sea island guarding the Elbe estuary.

If Caprivi hadn't traded-in Zanzibar nearly a century ago, shippers say, they would now be able to register under a German flag of convenience off the coast of East Africa, solving some of their problems.

There is a grain of truth in this somewhat farfetched joke. German merchant shipping is in the deepest trouble that it has ever been in.

There is a big surplus capacity in international freight tonnage, and German shipowners have been hit doubly hard by the free fall of the dollar, which is the principal unit of account in world shipping.

Small wonder German shipowners are seriously worried. Never before have so many German ships being flagged out as in 1986.

A report to the presidium of the German Shipowners' Association (VDR) notes that 387 ships still fly the German ensign, whereas 703 are still under German management.

VDR chairman John Henry de la Trobe is not alone in fearing that "the proportion of German tonnage flying the German ensign will be smaller in 1987 than the proportion flying a flag of convenience."

The only chance

Flagging out is simply the only chance German shipowners stand at the moment of staying competitive.

Panama, Singapore, Cyprus, Liberia or Curacao charge a fairly modest fee to register merchant shipping. The German ensign is lowered, the new flag raised — and costs are cut.

Cost-intensive German wage rates, tax legislation, safety provisions and classification regulations no longer apply to the flagged-out freighter.

The far less exacting — and less expensive — provisions of the flag of convenience start saving shipowners badly needed money.

Owners feel German wage rates are their heaviest burden — especially the "same pay for the same work" provision.

What it means is that seamen on German-registered ships must be paid the same rates regardless of their country of origin, and that, says a Bremen shipping expert, has little or nothing to do with equality.

A Filipino who works for two or three years on a German ship can save enough money to build a hotel back home — because, for instance, he has nothing to do with German living costs, such as rent and food prices.

German seamen cannot even dream of saving any such amount. They stand no chance of saving even the same amount of money, let alone enough to buy a hotel, in two or three years.

This is a problem faced by all seafaring countries that pay high wages. More and more shipowners are trying to offset the competitive advantage enjoyed by others by flagging out.

Some European countries have come up with a variety of ploys. France, for instance, has an open register on the Kerguelen islands in the South Atlantic, while British ships reregister in the Isle of Man for the same reason.

In Spain there is talk of setting up an open register in the Canaries, in Finland of setting up on in the Aland islands. In July Norway is setting up an open Norwegian shipping register in Oslo.

There seems to be no hope of any such arrangement in the Federal Republic. Must German shipowners flag out, unlike owners in neighbouring countries that set up open registers in far-off territories to ensure that their merchant fleets continue to fly the mother country's flag?

Other countries feel this is essential on political grounds. They are also keen to retain an influence on safety and working conditions on board.

What, then, about Heligoland? A senior Port of Hamburg official has resurrected the idea of a German flag of convenience on the North Sea isle.

Bremen port authority officials say the idea is ruled out on constitutional grounds. Heligoland is administratively part of the district council of Pinneberg, a town north of Hamburg.

It would need to be self-governing like, say, the Isle of Man, which is a member of the Commonwealth but not part of the United Kingdom.

Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, would need to be amended to change Heligoland's status. The VDR's Ralf Schneider says the Heligoland idea was first putforward in the late 1950s and there are "simpler" ways of helping the German merchant navy.

The most important proposals have been outlined by the VDR in ten closely typewritten pages circularised to the economic affairs, transport and finance ministers of the north German coastal *Länder*.

Headed Fiscal Initiatives to Boost the German Merchant Fleet's Profitability, the VDR proposals include substantial tax incentives, better engineering and separate promotion of shipping and shipbuilding.

The first demand, for tax incentives, is long overdue. A year ago the Federal government published a report commissioned by the Finance and Transport Ministries in which international shipping costs were compared.

It found that German shipowners were more heavily burdened than any of their competitors when money was hard to earn in shipping — and the hard times have weighed heavily for several years.

Yet shipowners still have to pay taxes, such as trade tax, that the VDR sees as a "onesided burden that just cannot be offset in competition."

In order to stay at all competitive German owners usually run extremely expensive special ships, and trade tax is assessed on the basis of purchase prices.

Another argument marshalled by shipowners against German trade tax cannot be dismissed out of hand either. It is that trade tax was originally envisaged as offsetting local authority expenditure necessitated by traders.

Yet German trade tax is even levied on ships that never even see, let alone berth in, German ports. They may, for instance, ply only between the United States and Chile — but still be liable to German trade tax.

If a German ship sailing mainly overseas happens to have an all-German crew, income tax on the crew's wages must be paid in Germany. That, shipowners say, is most unfair.

So they advocate granting German seaman who work abroad equal fiscal status to that enjoyed by other German employees who work abroad.

"Why," asks Bremen shipowner Jürgen Willhöft, "do German seamen who spend months working abroad have to pay income tax when comparable site workers sent abroad by German industrial firms don't have to do so?

Willhöft is not alone in realising that income tax incentives would have an immediate effect on wage talks in the merchant navy.

Politicians are equally well aware that tax cuts or exemptions would punch holes in the revenue of north German *Länder*.

Bremen has already stated that abolition of trade tax on seagoing ships would reduce the city's tax revenue by about DM800,000 a year.

Besides, the *Land* Ministers who might support the idea need to gain a majority in the Bundesrat.

In other words, they would need to persuade fellow-Ministers in inland *Länder* to accept the idea.

The signs are that they are going to give it a try. It is now or never.

Dramatic

"The ongoing crisis in shipping has assumed dramatic proportions," noted a report to the Hamburg conference of Economic Affairs Ministers of coastal *Länder* held early in May.

"There are initial indications of entire shipping lines being transferred abroad," it adds.

So shipping officials favour tax incentives, saying the problem must be given priority rating and action is overdue given the findings of tax burden comparisons.

If the Ministers could agree on details the German merchant fleet might feel it stood a chance of survival.

"We certainly need one," Herr Willhöft says. "The balance of tonnage supply and demand is expected to have been restored by 1990, but many German shipowners feel they cannot hold out that long."

Helgard Köhne

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 1 May 1987)

Government outlines priorities in marine technology

This year the Federal Research Ministry has earmarked over DM53m for marine technology project funding. A further DM180m is to be invested over the next three years.

These figures are taken from the newly published Federal government marine research and technology programme.

The programme's main aim is to help keep German industry internationally competitive in this sector.

Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber said in Bonn the programme took into account the recommendations of the Confederation of German Industry (BDI) and other industrial organisations.

They had repeatedly submitted proposals for financial backing to encourage German maritime research.

Key sectors include geoscientific research into marine mineral resources, the development of modern mining techniques, offshore oil and gas production technology and marine and coastal engineering.

Priority, Herr Riesenhuber said, was to be given to joint ventures involving both industrial firms and universities or other research facilities.

The Minister felt a recent order for five large container ships by a US shipping line could be considered a feather in the research programme's cap.

Had it not been for the findings of the "ship of the future" project the order would be unlikely to have been placed with German shipyards.

The Ministry plans to continue investing in modern shipbuilding techniques. It does so with two hopes in mind.

First, it feels that in the medium to long term the financial straits of world shipyards must improve.

Even if they improve, German shipyards can only hope to get a look-in by building high-quality ships for the high prices they are bound to charge.

Financial backing for marine technology may make sense in the years ahead in connection with specialised agreements with China and India.

These agreements lay the groundwork for joint research teams on board the German research vessel *Sonne* to embark on projects in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

This international cooperation could prove invaluable for German industry, which is hard-pressed to gain access to this special market for lack of German offshore seabed mineral deposits.

The Research Ministry certainly hopes that promoting projects by German manufacturers will enable them to get a look-in at the markets in question.

Coastal engineering is a marginal area of this research sector. The Ministry spends DM1m-DM2m a year on projects to improve protection of the German coastline and outlying islands.

A major aspect of this research work is improvement of flood tide forecasting.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 6 May 1987)

■ BOOKS

Parade of devotional mandorlas magnificent from the Middle Ages

An exhibition has opened in Cologne's Schnütgen Museum of books of devotion from the Middle Ages.

The first illustrated page the visitor sees shows Christ, painted with fine strokes of the brush, soaring towards the heavens which are symbolised by a curtain draped from the edge of the picture.

Only the upper part of Christ's body can be seen in the mandorla.

This miniature, relaxed, almost graphic, done in neutral colours, comes from a Latin psalter from the Rhine dating from the later 12th century.

The book of hours from Rouen dating from about 1460 is quite different. Here the Adoration of the Three Kings is surrounded by a rich gold-glittering border garland of plants and in the middle there is a red, realistic, appetising strawberry.

These pictures were painted with, and for, devotion, but at the same time for the pleasure of art and the artist's

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

skill, for the beauty of depicting the human form and for the joy in colour.

The exhibition is entitled "Books of Devotion from the Middle Ages in Private Collections." The glass cases containing the exhibition can be seen in the centre of the museum that used to be the Church of St Cecily.

It is small but exquisite, showing about 80 tomes from the late 12th century to the early 16th, including the first printed book of hours.

The exhibition concentrates on centres of book illustration such as Paris (where book illustration was first done outside monasteries, in secular workshops close to the Sorbonne), southern France, Florence, Flanders and other centres of importance including Cologne, produced by monastic orders there in the 15th and early 16th centuries.

These pictures illustrate and amplify the types of books of devotion. The initiator of the exhibition, Joachim M. Plotzek, said that the work was done with scientific precision, using universally-accepted depictions.

These works are being displayed for the first time. Most of them are unknown to the public at large. They are now accessible for academic assessment.

Plotzek outlined how these books of devotion developed from the Books of the Psalms, used for prayer in pre-Christian times.

The original, communal prayers said in unison by clerics and laymen were linked up to the eight hours of prayer of the day, beginning with the Prime, ordained for six o'clock in the morning. The other prayer hours, at three-hourly intervals throughout the day, were Terce, Sext, None, Vespers, Compline, Matins and Lauds.

The early prayer hours were summarised for laymen, out of sheer practical necessity, but clerics were only given leave of absence for special reasons, for study for instance.

In this way the psalters of the 11th and 12th centuries developed into the breviaries (in Latin brevarium or summary) for the "private" devotions of clerics, and to the books of hours for laymen.

Breviaries, that include prayer texts he said or sung in unison, and hour books, whose contents could be chosen by the nobleman ordering the volume, make up the major part of the exhibition.

It throws considerable light on social and religious history, on the history of the monastic orders and on the development of the ateliers where these illustrated books were produced.

The most attractive aspect of these miniatures is their artistic quality.

It is possible to study the same developments in this miniature art as those that occurred in panel painting, from the flat figures, often set in a gold background, to pictures that emphasised more and more strongly the surroundings, the landscape and eventually perspective.

The illustrated initial letters of a psalter, painted and written probably in Paris about 1240, are just as perfect as the Florentine pictures in a book of hours dating from about 1480, or the miniatures in the book of hours from the Netherlands (about 1475 to 1480).

Twelve pages from a book of hours produced in Cologne about 1460, show a plethora of Late Gothic figures (particularly in the arrest and flagellation of Christ) with a wonderful, deep-blue sky, dotted with golden stars.

The intensity and economy of the colour of these miniatures shows that they come from a master's hand.

The colour is intensified in many of the books by garland borders that are the quintessence of splendour with the inclusion of particles of gold dust in the paint. A book of hours from the southern Netherlands, dating from between 1460 to 1470, shows the Three Kings at prayer in gray tones, but here and there dull gold gleams through and there is a suggestion of a blue sky — the border garland is accented by a strong blue and a noble peacock looks out from the foliage along with one of those fabulous creatures so frequently encountered in the art of the Middle Ages. It is an exhibition that provokes the imagination. The visitor will need patince to examine the pictures. Even if we can no longer achieve the serenity of former times these little pictures call for particular attention.

Latin breviary, Paris, circa 1450.

(Photo: Cat...)

They are displayed under gentle light because they need constant protection.

The pages of the books are turned once a week so that visitors are offered a different exhibition every Monday.

Anton Legner, director of the Schnütgen Museum, has calculated that in this way the 2,000 picture pages will be displayed. What at first glance is a small exhibition is in fact a major one.

The catalogue, which includes ... colour photographs, is clear evidence of the Museum's technical abilities for it was produced in four weeks. The Museum had to rush production because it was not entirely certain until the last moment that it would get a vital subsidy from the North Rhine-Westphalian Culture Ministry.

The Museum tried to acquire the Ludwig Peter collection of manuscripts but was beaten to the post by the Getty Museum in Malibu. This exhibition made of works on loan from private German collections makes up for the disappointment.

Rainer Hartmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 6 May 1987)

The ironic reversal of roles of the artistic bookplate



Stolen from . . .

(Photo: Gutenberg-Museum Mainz)

Goethe designed a marvellous bookplate for the love of his Leipzig youth, Käthchen Schönkopf. It was indeed an expression of his youthful adoration.

For himself he was satisfied with a well designed bookplate that simply said: "From the library of Joh. Wolfgang Goethe."

This defines just what a bookplate implies. But there is a bookplate from Franz Poledne that says it more succinctly in dialect: "This book is mine."

With statements such as this the book-owner never lets the book thief forget that the tome is purloined.

Bookplates are small labels, usually affixed to the cover page of a book to show to whom it belongs. It is a sign of the owner's pride of possession and the value he or she attaches to the volume.

It was also meant to protect the book from theft.

It was never realised, however, that these small, artistically-designed labels, would in fact be a reason for stealing books for enthusiasts and fences dealing in this art form.

Collectors pursue fine specimens with passion. Bookplates have become independent of books and have developed into extravagant, opulent forms.

An exhibition of bookplates has been opened in the Gutenberg Museum, Mainz. The first exhibits showed usually the name of the owner with his coat-of-arms with graphic decorations.

This is the way Dürer designed bookplates for his friend Pirckheimer and other Nuremberg patricians.

The bookplates that Dürer, Cranach, Ammann, Baldung and Holbein designed for their friends and patrons were the glorious beginnings of this art form in miniature.

They were part of German humanism that lasted until the 17th century. They faded away in the last flower scrolls and shell ornaments of the rococo.

Bookplates went through their second, and perhaps, flowering at the turn of the century, between 1890 and 1920.

A number of artistic factors came together at the same time for this high-point in the bookplate art: the academic classes' need to assert themselves, the development of large public libraries, the growth of private book collectors, the revival of book production traditions and the influence of the *Jugendstil* art movement.

Jugendstil painters and graphic artists such as Hans Thoma, Liebermann, Slevogt, Corinth, Franz Marc, Masereel and Kubin saw an opportunity to exploit the fashionable demand for bookplates.

These *Ex libris* gained a value in the history of art and culture when the reason for their existence had long since been forgotten.

This is shown by the major bookplate collections in the British Museum, the National Library in Vienna, the Bavarian State Library, and the Duke August Library in Wolfenbüttel as well as the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz that has a

Continued on page 13

■ THE ARTS

Hitting civilisation's Achilles heel — and raising a serious laugh

Outlining the world of people and things seems no way to overcome the distances dividing people and things.

Oddly enough since the development of photography our view of the world has become more nebulous.

This third-hand information through photography shows all the signs of manipulation and anyone who relies on this information is ill-advised. This puts moral values at stake.

Marshall McLuhan, America's critic of the television age, said that in phylogeny, we are told, it is a usual reaction to protest loudly when an evil deed becomes known, deploring the emotional state of the wrong-doer, instead of making someone responsible and saying that he has done a horrible deed.

McLuhan said that this was a typical trend of the mass culture overwhelming us, a culture in which no one any longer can conceive what personal guilt means.

This has meant that that the immoral has become stylised into a medial event, murderer and victim "are looked upon equally," and are assessed not in terms of their degeneracy or guilt but in terms of their entertainment value.

Carl Otto Paeffgen, a Cologne artist, has here touched on the Achille's heel of our civilisation.

In an exhibition of his work in Baden-Baden he cynically shows how hollowness, degeneracy, arrogance, exhibitionism, the trivial and the important, are indiscriminately accepted by most people.

He has not had to go to a great deal of trouble to show this — obiously to his own delight.

He has examined newspapers and mass-circulation magazines to find out what was available to people.

He found pictures of "Hermann Kleinsorg, who has died," of "Maria, who killed five of her relations," of "G.W. Ritter who is on the run," and of "Ahmet Balli, 34, who had been arrested."

He found pictures of "M. Heurtault, standing beside his demolished car, who miraculously escaped injury," of "female members of the British royal family," and even of "happy workers from Russia."

Paeffgen took up his felt pen and reproduced the pictures in highlight. With thick lines he emphasised what seemed to him suspect, risible, exaggerated, stupid, hypocritical or offensive.

He produced a kind of photo-outline, a photo-comic, a photographic silhouette.

He then photographed the results, so much changed from the original. He made enlargements on photographic paper, making corrections here and there with a felt pen, painting them over with mat paint. He submitted his work, critical of the media and society, as pictures.

Paeffgen's method is simple, his selection of themes more or less subject to the whim of the day. They are to some extent accidental.

The 100 pictures and "sketches" in the Baden-Baden exhibition are a plausible statement of the awareness and state of mind of citizens influenced by the media. Naturally Paeffgen has in mind the theories and practices of that modern artist, Marcel Duchamp. He distances his "readymades," his photographic productions, to a considerable extent, but he always maintains his "outlines," giving him a close bond with Duchamp's famous travesty of Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*. Duchamp decorated La Gioconda with a moustache and beard, robbing her in this way of her supernatural, female beauty — iconoclast, picture-destroyer in line with Paeffgen's methods and intentions. Paeffgen has deduced a principle for a whole series of pictures.

Whim of the day . . . Carl Otto Paeffgen self portrait.

(Photo: Catalogue)

Paeffgen develops his concepts and approaches extremely forcefully. The particularly convincing feature of his palette is his small sketches.

He is in deadly earnest, for instance, with the statuesque portraits of the Japanese emperor and empress, but he can still raise a laughwith his innumerable nude caricatures.

Werner Krüger

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 4 May 1987)

Bits 'n pieces that touch limits between reality and fantasy

Düsseldorf's Art Gallery is a massive pile of shards. There is broken porcelain everywhere.

The walls are covered with cracked plates, bowls, cups and saucers, stuck to pieces of wood, in part painted over and then set upright. They attack the imagination.

There are square metres without end covered with sharp crockery points and edges, decorative and aggressive. They look like the remains of a stag party or the results of a passionate marital disagreement.

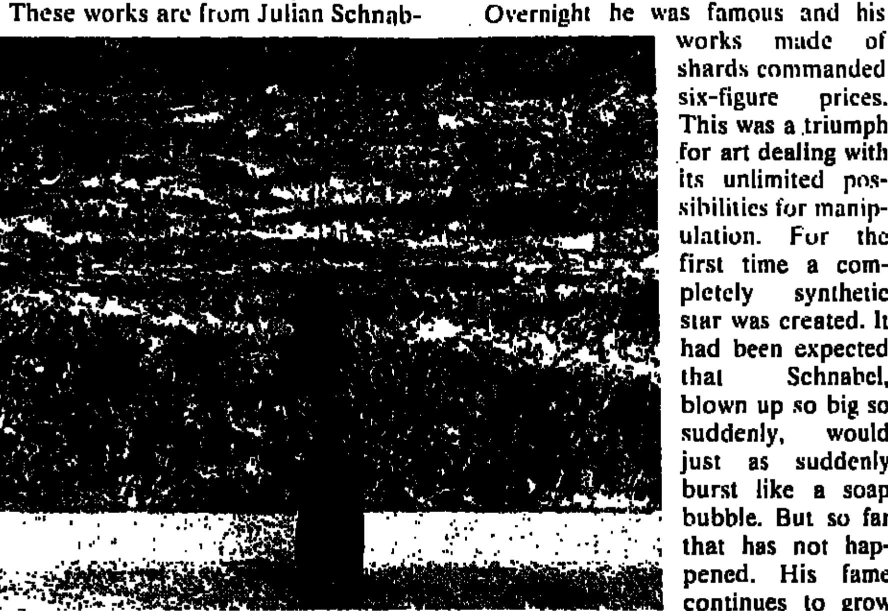
But if you want to interpret these works in a less blunt manner, in a more serious vein, that is possible. They can be interpreted as an archaeological site with the porcelain embedded in the lime with all the historical associations you like..

These works are from Julian Schnabel, who is attacked by critics more than any other avantgarde artist. Schnabel is 38. His father is a Texan farmer. He has been able to create the contemporary anti-picture.

In fact his fairytale-like career is like a gigantic product of speculation.

The art world looked on fascinated when, in 1981, Leo Castelli and Mary Boone, the uncrowned king and the adored beauty among New York's art dealers, raised an ambitious nobody from nothing into artistic fame with a double exhibition.

Overnight he was famous and his works made of shards commanded six-figure prices. This was a triumph for art dealing with its unlimited possibilities for manipulation. For the first time a completely synthetic star was created. It had been expected that Schnabel, blown up so big so suddenly, would just as suddenly burst like a soap bubble. But so far that has not happened. His fame continues to grow worldwide and not just among well-off collectors. The most renowned exhibition galleries in Europe regularly get hold of his wickedly expensive and almost untransportable productions.



Sharp end, blunt manner . . . Julian Schnabel's *The Sea* (1981) in oil, shards, plaster and wood. Wood in front.

(Photo: Catalogue)

The Tate Gallery in London and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam have staged Schnabel exhibitions, as well as the Centre Pompidou in Paris. Düsseldorf has joined in with the Paris venture.

Schnabel continuously gets slating reviews in the papers and new legends about him are continuously being created, but he continues on his victorious way, profiting from the general incomprehension of his work.

Schnabel's large works are literally and figuratively massive mountains of crockery fragments.

His unpredictable compositions turn out to be conglomerates of quotations and sources. You can interpret his work as you like.

Joseph Beuys, whose rebirth was conjured up by a mysterious crate on a background of pink flowers, is the acknowledged master of the art of shattered objects.

The magical powers of the materials are created from this mystical source.

After stable wood Schnabel favours truck tarpaulin, soaked in stories from the highway, cow skins, that re-create the essential being of the beast, or, above all else, velvet with its warmth and its proximity to felt (Beuys' trilby hat), as the background for his artefacts.

The looming antlers in a composition and figures such as the "mutilating king," from Beuys-like source, touch the limits between reality and imagination.

Schnabel, a surprising man who has a fixation about Europe, nurtures his many friendships, German friendships mainly.

His pictures of great occasions, Maria Callas on stage for instance, recall the work of that colour alchemist Polke. The myth painter Anselm Kiefer was undoubtedly godfather to Schnabel's deep sea of shards with drift-wood.

His critics are battering their heads against the wall since Schnabel puts himself up as a herald of post modern art.

He does not feel the usual solitude of an avantgarde artist because in his works, happy plagiarist that he is, he enjoys the company of the great.

He has adapted the style and methods of the Catalan *Jugendstil* architect Antonio Gaudi — the shards. He has also taken over themes from every level of cultural development. He uses a saint from Christian iconography or a Bacchus from Caravaggio.

Subcultures are present in his work through magazine pictures and comics just as is fashionable ethnology in the form of borrowings from the culture of distant primitive peoples.

Schnabel's post-historical heaps of rubble and debris announce the end of all development and progress, watched by larger-than-life bronze sculptures in the form of mummies with bound faces.

But Julian Schnabel, a spoiled star, is obviously not particularly worried about the future.

Wolf Schön

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 8 May 1987)

■ NATURAL HISTORY

Council sends in the rubbish trucks to fill in prehistoric fossil ground

There would be an outcry if Frankfurt were to demolish its cathedral or the Römer, its mediaeval city hall, to gain valuable new city-centre building land — and no-one has any intention of doing so.

Yet is it right for a country that claims to be civilised to treat only its historic monuments with kid gloves but to bury internationally important geological treasures irretrievably beneath mountains of garbage?

Wighart von Koenigswald, curator of the Hessisches Landesmuseum, Darmstadt, asks this provocative question in connection with an oil shale pit in nearby Messel.

A treasure trove of prehistoric fossils, it has finally been condemned by the district council to the ignominy of sanitary landfill.

The grey-brown layers of oil shale deposited in a small lake near Darmstadt 50 million years ago may not look too impressive, but for years they have been a constant source of surprising discoveries by geologists.

The best-known Messel finds include nearly complete fossil skeletons of Propalaeotherium parvulum, the pint-sized ancestor of the horse.

Little larger than a cat, the forebear of Equus equus trotted through the subtropical rain forest in the Eocene era, about 50 million years ago.

New finds and research findings were presented at an international Messel symposium held at the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt, in April.

The participants, over 100 scientists from 12 countries, appealed to Hesse Premier Walter Wallmann to ensure the survival of the Messel shale pit for palaeontology.

They signed a resolution expressing shock that such an invaluable fossil site was due to be buried under mountains of garbage.

"A decision of such consequence ought," they said, "to be reached with due flair, political foresight and the feeling of being a civilised country — especially in Germany."

The new *Land* government, elected in April, is in a position to intervene in the planning permission procedure, which is still under way, and prevent the worst from happening, it was argued.



Diplocynodon darwini **is a crocodile. Its skeleton is 130 cm long.**

The Messel finds have certainly provided a profound insight into the biology of flora and fauna 50 million years ago. They are particularly significant because skeletons have often survived intact.

The animals whose fossil remains have been unearthed in recent years were drowned in the lake. Their fossils are so finely detailed that even the outlines of feathers, hair and skin can sometimes be seen.

Comparable finds have only been unearthed in brown coal deposits near Halle. In Britain, France and America palaeontologists have to be satisfied with finding a few bones and teeth dating back to the same period on a single site.

Few inferences can be drawn from such meagre finds about the way of life of the 50-million-year-old forebears of today's animals.

The Messel fossils in contrast give a clear and detailed idea of the appearance and even behaviour of species long extinct. They are particularly revealing on the development of mammals.

Even in the Eocene period mammals were many and varied, but very few looked much like their present-day descendants.

Horses, donkeys and zebras have adapted, as frugal ruminants and fast, long-distance runners, to life in the bare and barren steppes.



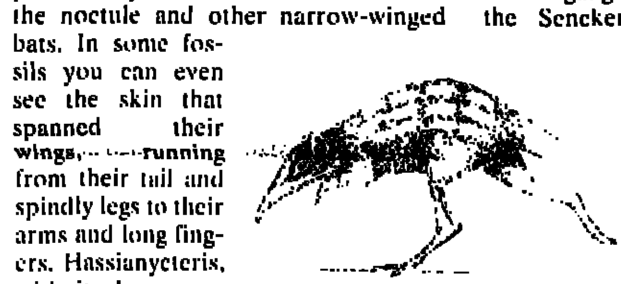
Leptictidium tobleni, **a predatory insect eater. Its jaw is about 10 cm long.**
(Photos: *Fossils of the Messel Formation* published by Hessisches Landesmuseum Darmstadt)

The Messel mini-horse skipped through the undergrowth of the primeval forest. One species grew to the size of a present-day cat, another to that of a German shepherd dog.

Both lived on a diet of leaves and fruit. Their diet was revealed by traces of grape seeds and half-eaten laurel leaves in their fossilised stomachs.

The bats that winged over the lake while the mini-horse skipped through the undergrowth were in contrast surprisingly "modern" in appearance.

Hassianycteris differs little from present-day domestic varieties, such as the noctule and other narrow-winged bats. In some fossils you can even see the skin that spanned their wings — running from their tail and spindly legs to their arms and long fingers. Hassianycteris, with its long, narrow wings, could probably fly fast and high, whereas Palaeochiropteryx, with its short, wide wings, fluttered slowly through the treetops. These 50-million-year-old bats lived on a diet little different from that of their present-day peers. Their stomachs have been found to contain remnants of moths and other insects.



Leptictidium nasutum, **an insect eater as it looked dashing for its prey.**

The bats' forebears probably learned how to hunt insects in flight at a time when dinosaurs still stomped round the jungle.

Bats are an age-old and extremely successful species of mammal of which about 800 varieties are known to exist on all continents (except the Antarctic).

Others are less cosmopolitan. So palaeontologists were most surprised to find the fossil of an ant-eater, Eurotamandua, in Messel. Like its present-day Latin American descendants, it had powerful front legs with long claws and an elongated, toothless snout.

The ant-eater uses its claws to tear holes in termite and ant hills and licks up the insects with its long and sticky tongue.

The surroundings of the 50-million-year-old lake there were a particularly happy hunting ground for the ant-eater. The shale includes fossils of female ants up to six centimetres long with a wingspan of up to 15 centimetres.

How did the ant-eater, hitherto known only to exist in South America, find its way to Europe? Via Africa or via North America?

In the Eocene period there was a land link between Europe and North America via which many animals, probably including relatives of the mini-horse, found their way to Europe.

Yet although many fossils of mini-horses have been found in North America not one fossilised bone of an ant-eater has been found either in North America or in Africa.

That doesn't rule out the possibility of ant-eaters having lived in North America, says US scientist K. D. Rosen.

Fossils mainly consist of teeth, which are the hardest parts of the skeleton. Ant-eaters have no teeth, so their fossil remains are only found at exceptional sites such as Messel.

Fossils found there have included both alien animals from other continents and species that are now extinct such as the insect-eater Leptictidium nasutum.

Its elongated skull includes a flat pit in front of the eyes that must have housed the powerful muscles of a proboscis or trunk with which it prodded the forest floor for food.

Its diet was not limited to insects. Fossil stomach contents have been found to include the bones of a small lizard and another small mammal, possibly a mouse.

Leptictidium must have been nippy on its long back legs to catch animals such as these. Legwise its skeleton is reminiscent of a kangaroo, with short forepaws and long back legs.

But the shape of its foot joints and weak anchoring of its hip bones in the vertebral column seem to rule out the marsupial hop, skip and jump.

Wolfgang Maier and his colleagues at the Senckenberg Research Institute, Frankfurt, infer from these facts that Leptictidium must have run on two legs leaning forward and keeping its balance with the aid of its long tail.

That is a gait which has failed to survive to our own day and age.

Can further surprises be expected from the shale pit? Wighart von Koenigswald feels sure they can. In a book[1] just published by the Hessisches Landesmuseum he lists the species of which fossils have so far been discovered.

Remains of 35 kinds of mammal were found by this spring, he writes, whereas we know from other sites where fossils are less well-preserved that between 60 and 70 varieties must have lived in the woods round the 50-million-year-old lake.

Much the same goes for other species of flora and fauna. Excavations have steadily unearthed new finds in recent years, and there is no reason why they should not continue to do so — provided the site is not landfilled.

Dr Reinhard Heil, head of the palaeontology department at the Hessisches Landesmuseum, says:

"What has gone on in connection with the Messel shale pit is a typical conflict between the importance attached to geological and prehistoric research and the convenient insistence on production, distribution and consumption to a degree that has long ceased to be in keeping with the times."

Diemut Klärner
(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 8 May 1987)

[1] Hessisches Landesmuseum (Ed.): Fossils of the Messel Formation, Darmstadt 1987, 160 pp., DM10.-

■ MEDICINE

More allergy research is needed, doctors say

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

One German in four has an allergy. More and more people are finding themselves allergic to a growing range of substances at a steadily earlier age.

The allergy and asthma association, meeting in Bonn on the eve of the second German allergies conference, has called for a passbook to be issued to people who are allergic to medicines.

The conference was to deal with various types of allergy-connected illness including skin and digestive tract complaints and breathing difficulties.

The damage to the economy caused by allergies is said to defy quantifiable assessment, not least because doctors are largely in the dark.

They have neither been able to exhaustively research the many forms allergies take nor succeeded in developing adequate diagnostic procedures and methods of treatment.

In a debate at the Beethovenhalle in Bonn Professor Johannes Ring of Munich was critical of fellow-medics.

"The furthest we can be said to have got is that allergies are no longer dismissed as a fashionable complaint," he said. "The medical profession has an enormous backlog to make good."

It was clear as the Beethovenhalle debate progressed that a growing number of allergy patients disappointed with conventional medical treatment are seeking the advice of non-medical practitioners and naturopaths.

The better-known allergies such as hay fever or allergic reactions to household dust and cats or dogs have long ceased to be the problem.

More and more holidaymakers find they are allergic to sunlight while their doctors back home ponder whether cosmetics or shampoo, beetroot, blue-vein cheese or deep-frozen French-fried potatoes are perhaps the problem.

Doctors seem to be completely in the dark when it comes to allergic responses to progressive atmospheric, water and soil pollution.

What is more, or so dermatologists infer from their patients' skin tests, people are allergic to each other.

Professors Johannes Ring and Ernst August Stemmann agreed that the mental anguish parents cause children, boyfriends cause girlfriends, bosses cause staff (and, no doubt, vice-versa) could well trigger allergies.

Realising that a patient's skin can be a telltale pointer to his mental state, doctors are paying greater attention to this aspect.

Professor Ring, mentioning allergic children who were the victims of educational mistakes by their parents, told parents: "Don't try to work out your conflicts on your children's skin."

Free Democrat Wolfgang Mischnick, patron of the Bonn gathering, is keen to gain a hearing for the roughly 15 million Germans who suffer from allergies.

He hopes to set up a parliamentary advisory council on allergies and said the Federal government was planning to invest DM30m in allergy research.

The Allergy and Asthma Association in Bonn listed its demands, which include a statutory list of artificial agents in food, detergents, vaccines, drugs and preservatives.

Chairs of allergology, it says, also badly need to be endowed at German universities.

Thomas Agthe
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 11 May 1987)

Smile, you're on (sneeze), Candid Camera

This attractive little creature exists best in nice, warm rooms with a temperature of between 20 and 30 degrees Celsius and humidity of between 70 and 80 per cent. It flourishes best in late summer. It is the house-dust mite, photographed here through an electron microscope. It causes much more hay fever than pollens. Even when it is out of season, its excrement, which also causes hay fever, is ever-present, buried in carpets and soft furniture. Vacuum cleaning doesn't help and a thorough cleaning gets at most 10 per cent of the mites. But there is now hope for a newly developed chemical cleaner.
(Photo: ProKonzept)

Bookplates

Continued from page 10

collection of 60,000 bookplates, one of the most extensive collections in the world.

This exhibition is made up of 450 copper-plates, etchings, wood-cuts and clichees from this collection.

The exhibition is entitled "People and books reflected by bookplates," and in 14 divisions shows the many aspects of people's relation to books, not only as readers, owners, seekers after knowledge or dreamers, but as producers of books.

There is one section that shows bookplates (and sometimes books) that in type, setting, printing and binding reflected the influence of Gutenberg.

The motives taken up for bookplates were wide-ranging: from the book as a weapon to a play on words (liber-libertas), and erotic, diabolic, moral and fantastic subjects.

The collection extends to large-size plates that could hardly be stuck in a book but which are designed for exchange among collectors.

Eo Plunien
(Die Welt, Bonn, 6 May 1987)

Acupuncture: hay-fever hope

A 60 per cent success rate has been reported in acupuncture treatment for hay fever victims.

Dr Martin Fischer, of Heidelberg University Hospital's pain centre, where acupuncture has been practised for five years, says treatment should begin six to eight weeks before the pollen season.

Hay fever affects the mucous membranes of the upper respiratory passages and the eyes. The atmospheric pollen count of grass, trees and cereals is its cause.

Inhaling pollen irritates the mucous membrane, causing hay fever, asthma and even apnoea, or stoppage of breath.

May and June are the danger months for hay fever.

Dr Fischer lists the benefits of what is a classical Chinese treatment. "Patients don't need to take powerful drugs and they don't suffer from side-effects."

Treatment is best begun six to eight weeks before the pollen season. Twelve sessions are usual. Dr Fischer says well over 60 per cent of patients treated in this way survive the pollen season without the telltale symptoms.

About half of them find they have no trouble with hay fever for two or three years.

Dr Erich Rebholz in Eberbach reports similarly successful results at the Waldbrunn acupuncture centre, where treatment has been given for years.

Acupuncture redresses the balance of the immuno-vegetative nervous system, which is off-balance among allergy victims

It relays to the brain and glands the nerve stimuli given by the acupuncture needles, triggering higher production of body substances that impede allergic responses.

The body thus treats itself, prompted to do so by the needle prick, as it were.

It is too late for hay fever victims to give acupuncture a try this year. All they can do is dial the pollen emergency switchboard so they know when to stay indoors.

Ingeborg Bördlein
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 4 May 1987)



■ SOCIETY

Why the 1987 Mother deserves every Mother's Day praline she gets

The author, Lydia Strzebniok, heads a women's discussion group in Siegburg, south east of Cologne. She wrote this article for *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger*.

Grandma is not like she used to be. She is not even like her own mother. Well, that is the received wisdom these days.

Today, grandma prefers to spend the winter months in Majorca instead of looking after her grandchildren. She has now seen that there is more to life than beaming babies. She has also seen that those beautiful little beaming babies are not as beautiful as they once were.

The little ones today are used to handing out a bit of backchat (modern methods of upbringing require that the entire personality be developed). They show an astonishing sophistication in their demands. Once upon a time, all a miffed child dared do was to make a vexed expression.

So if grandma has changed, and the grandchildren too, what about mother? There are indications that Mother 1987 is indeed different from Mother 1920 and not the same as Mother 1887.

In this age of birth control, there is no mistaking the utter dedication of Mother 87 when she decides to have a baby — or several babies.

Even an apparently common-or-garden activity such as breast-feeding becomes an major activity: aware mothers feed the baby with feelings of awareness. And they often do it in a group.

They want the little ones to have it better, perhaps not in material things, but emotionally. They want a large dose of adult attentiveness and tenderness to foster a sense of human relations.

It is all a bit more complicated for mothers whose children are older but not yet old enough to have their own home and to have developed their own lifestyle.

This group is numerically the biggest not only because it comes from the ba-



by-bulge years, but also because maturity comes earlier. These days, 12 year olds decide themselves what sort of clothes they will wear.

There is a mothers' song about early maturing children either wanting to move out of home as soon as they can ("I'm moving out. I can't stand it here any more") or not wanting to move out at all.

In the latter case, it is the cleverer ones who see the advantage of hanging around without paying anything towards the household costs long after they should have gone. Any demand for a small contribution is received as a lack of parental affection ("Other parents aren't like that").

Mother 87 does have problems. When her son who is doing national service comes home and throws his dirty washing at her feet, does she simply go ahead and wash it or protest and risk an argument? She might win the argument but she might also suffer pangs of self-reproach because of it.

Because mother — according to the widespread and most comfortable (for everyone except mother that is) line of thought — is there to do everything that makes the family happy, perform every deed necessary to the family — and do it all happily.

Washing is only one of the many chores people like leaving to other people. The demands have increased and it is taken for granted quite as much as ever it was. Well, otherwise she wouldn't have had children, would she?

Children get used at an early age to the fact that mother does everything for them. And they don't change as they get older. In accordance with what child-raising experts and psychologists hear in torrents from parents, they have the desire for their children to grow up completely convinced that they are the most important in the world.

That is the most important point not just for the mother but the most important, full stop. Everything is geared so the child learns to handle the future. Defend yourself, is the message. They learn it quickly.

In her efforts to be a good mother, Mother 87 looks to the right and to the left and sometimes even behind her to make sure she is fulfilling the current criteria for excellent motherhood.

If she manages to retain her critical faculties, she must be surprised. It used to be said that mother and father were honoured and the children were eternally grateful for the parents and no one had loved them, was loving them and would love them like their own parents ("They want only the best for us").

But the reality looked a little different. Parental love was actually love of self. It was all about preserving the existing order of things, the economic security of the parents who were growing older; and it also had a lot to do with things like the family farm or business.

So is this selfless mother love nothing other than a fiction from an old family album or a cheap novel? Does a child really love his parents? Or does he because he has been taught that this is his duty? Even after he has begun to realise that they have given him the gift of life? When he didn't want it?

If it were so natural for children to love their parents, there would be no need for the Ten Commandments.

But there she is, Mother 87, bending in several directions at once, taking everything that is handed out and driving on in the silent hope that her example will turn out to be to the advantage of the child. It is a hope that deceives.

Where children and parents live together in apparent harmony (a recent survey suggests that this is the majority), there is a degree of toleration required of the mother. It is far greater than she could demand from her own parents.

Mother 87 has grown used to accepting uncritically the social, sexual and other habits of her children. When she was a child, it took all her reserves of mental strength to contest anything with her mother.

The children of the daughter too cannot understand. In this, they behave just like their own grandma who acts as if she knows what is good for mother that means to be available when needed and to step back when not.

No one gives the slightest thought about the stomach-, back- and headaches and even the depression Mother 87 gets. If the frustrations of Mother 87 can be treated in doctors surgeries everything is all right.

And on Mother's Day, there is always a packet of pralines or a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Lydia Strzebniok

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 9 May 1987)

Accused men almost get booty back

Saarbrücker Zeitung

A public prosecutor has ordered some alleged stolen goods to be returned to four men who have been charged with having stolen them in the first place.

The decision caused indignation at a welfare authority and the package containing the items was intercepted.

The four men, all asylum seekers from Lebanon, face charges in the Lower Saxon town of Verden of stealing various items valued at just under 2,500 marks. Conviction could mean deportation.

They were freed on bail and allowed to return to the centre of Mettmann, which is in North Rhine-Westphalia and so out of the jurisdiction of the Verdun court.

Meanwhile, the original owners of the goods could not be found and so the prosecutor and the police decided that they should be returned to the last known possessor — that is, the four accused. The four maintain, in any case, that the goods have not been stolen.

Irmgard Bicker, head of the Mettmann social welfare office, thought the instruction outrageous. She contacted the local council and the parcel was stopped in transit.

The prosecutor in Verden said that returning some of the items in dispute to the accused did not in any way prejudice his case against them.

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 27 April 1987)

Police duo meet crisis baby 18 years later

One day in June 1969, two Munich policemen on patrol in a car were called to an emergency in which a woman in an advanced state of pregnancy had been taken ill.

They put her in the car and drove through the streets of the city with flashing light and wailing siren. At the hospital, a boy was born by Caesarian section.

Last December, the boy went to Munich police headquarters to try and find the policemen and invite them to his 18th birthday party.

They were discovered — and the Munich chief of police invited both mother and son to meet them at a special function at the headquarters.

dpa

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 29 April 1987)

The cheeky five move in for the pinch

Bremer Nachrichten

The bottom pinchers of Göttingen have moved in — and they're all women. The five began their operation in the centre of the town's pedestrianised shopping zone.

They hovered nervously, one with a camera. They laughed a little and geed each other on. So far, there has been no action. But here comes one, exactly the right type, a macho swagger and a not-to-be-meddled-with look in his eye.

Camera ready. Kerstin grabs and pinches. The lens goes click.

The man was not angry, but he didn't laugh either. He was more perplexed. Kerstin said he looked at them "dumbly". It was a reaction that most of the other men victims were to show that afternoon as the Terrible Five blazed their trail of pinched bottoms.

All the girls are members of a youth organisation called Falken (Falcons) which is running an investigation into the effects and causes of interference.

Part of the project is to take the campaign to the men themselves. Viola says that men should get to know what it is like to be pawed and pinched.

The investigators have put together a file listing the experiences of 150 women between the ages of 14 and 20: more than 60 per cent have at least once felt threatened by bodily contact.

Britta, 20, remembers: "I was sitting at the back of this bus packed to the gunnels. Suddenly this bloke turned around and grabbed me on the leg. I couldn't move away. I cried out and leapt to my feet because I really felt threatened."

Most of the experiences were similar. None liked being stared at by strange men. But being touched on the bottom was the worst. Most felt "totally aggressive" after things like being slapped on the bottom or stroked on the hair.

But their anger was not enough to provoke them into taking retaliatory action or even to say anything.

This form of touching without asking takes place most often in discos, say the Falken. They also report that only a tiny minority of the respondents had made lasting friendships at discos.

The five Falken girls didn't make any long-lasting friendships in their bottom-pinching campaign, either.

But they pinched only certain types of men, those who looked macho, who looked like they might touch up a girl.

And the girls gave an assurance that they had no interest whatever in this type of man.

Now the results of their campaign and the photographs have been presented as an exhibition which will be shown in schools.

Matthias Brunnert

(Bremer Nachrichten, 7 May 1987)

■ HORIZONS

A full house for half Nelsons and dirty tricks

"Strangle him, do him in," yelled a lady who will not see 50 again, sitting in the fourth row. Beer glasses fly through the air from the back of the catch-as-catch-can-wrestling hall.

There are theatening gestures from everywhere, and a bar runs along the length of the hall.

You could cut the air with a knife. There is not a seat spare.Four hundred people have paid a lot to see dirty tricks.

The grunt'n groaners used to wrestle at country fairs, but the country fair has joined the technical age.

So now the big men grapple in air-conditioned halls. In Dortmund, Durban and London. Or in Bremen, one of Germany's the catch-as-catch-can wrestling centres.

The halls are full. Brutality is what people are looking for. There is a nostalgia for it.

When David the Goliath's shoulders are forced to the ground there is enormous excitement, just like at carnival time.

Is this form of wrestling without too many rules a sport, show business, primitive punch-up or what? It is all and none. The men know one another. They have wrestled each other so often they know what to expect. They even like each other up to a point, and that is an important factor.

The caravan is parked on the parking lot outside, behind the hall. Wives are seldom near the ring. Children are an exception and the end-of-the-month pay packet shows pay-packet how well or how badly they dealt with their opponents.

They are an unusual collection of huge, powerful men, athletes of a sort who turn up together for every competition.

This does not include women catch-as-catch-can wrestlers, of course. They are no longer taken seriously.

With the men the nuttier the clothing and the more exotic the name used in the ring, the better.

The Irishman Rasputin II's hatred recalls Abbot Horge of Umberto Eco's Middle Ages novel *The Name of the Rose*. Colonel Brodey's rubber truncheon recalls colonial policies of the British Empire, and it has become something of a cult show when Indio Guayara takes the chain with the shrunken head in it from his neck.



Grunt'n groan and screaming women. (Photo: Horst Müller)

Hardly any of these heroes is less than 180 centimetres tall. Injuries are all part of the job; broken ribs, elbows or bones in the feet, a torn ear lobe or a broken nose. And so on. The show must go on!

Old master Oscar Lago has become a legend. He completed his rounds in a fight although he had a broken leg and in the end marched off to the hospital laughing.

No-one can afford to get out of the business too early. They have to keep going on. They are like film stars: the older they get the less important the date of birth.

And what happens when they can no longer step into the ring? Ivan Strogoff used to be one of the top wrestlers. He had a heart attack. So now he appears at small local festivals — as the strongest man in the world, of course.

The public quickly looks for new heroes. Spectators are mainly between 25 and 55. Quite a few are women. Some of them clench their fists as they hold their arms high, and their blouses nearly break from the strain.

The men who accompany them, usually far from frail, are only also-rans on these evenings. The only thing that matters is inside the ring..

The important thing in this game is that all the approved ingredients are there. A little blood does no harm.

Needless to say the beer bar does a roaring trade.

Alcohol releases inhibitions. A false move in the ring and the show can develop into a real punch-up. That's what the people want. The hunter instinct is unleashed. In the USA a grill is put round the ring. Who is protecting whom?

At ringside, people come into contact with their idols. This satisfies the craving for heroes. Neither the cinema, videos or television can achieve this.

A common comment is: you pay a third person to do physical harm to another, possibly to the extent of needing hospital attention.

The catch-as-catch-can wrestling hall provides a kind of freedom. Dark anxieties, aggressions, desires and fantasies can have their fling.

You can bawl, laugh, cry, tremble and moan without feeling ridiculous. If you want to be offensive there is someone who will take you up. You just have to be loud and tough, tough above all things.

Bremen sports psychologist Professor Fritz Stemme said: "Aggression is like an addiction. You need stronger fixes all the time."

In the stands the spectators begin to fight. No catch-as-catch-can wrestler would deign to join in as a matter of professional conduct. *Christian Stoll*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 10 May 1987)

Eel man shows who has the loudest bark

A smoked herring flies over the spectators' heads and hits a passer-by on the forehead. A mackerel (wrapped up), a pollack (also wrapped) and a smoked eel are hurled into the howling crowd.

A voice on the microphone calls out: "Come on! Come on! Come on!"

This is neither a public slanging match nor another kind of circus, but "Aal-Jürgen" (Eel Jürgen) making his appearance at the first market criers' competition in Karlsruhe.

The Guild of Market Criers (or barkers), founded in Berlin in 1970, was making a guest appearance to an astonished Karlsruhe public.

Fourteen of the 21 Guild members were there to extol the virtues of cheese and flowers, fish and sausage.

The public were called upon to vote for the crier who created the best impression.

Aal-Jürgen's keenest competitor was "Wurst Herby" (Sausage Herby) from Oldenburg. He yelled: "And now a first-class salami and a garlic sausage — a kilo for just 20 marks." He shouted and hurled sausage after sausage indiscriminately into a plastic bag. He made compliments to curious housewives.

Money was passed to him on his stand and he made faces as he pushed it away under his counter.

He yelled out: "Come on, everything is cheap! Cheap! Cheap today!"

Elmar Borgschulze, Guild chairman, said the idea was mainly to do a little advertising for Berlin. "We wanted to do something for the public image of the market crier or barker, whose history can be traced back to the Middle Ages, the times of the bards and troubadours."

It's hard to image *Minnesang* as a market call or the *Nibelungenlied* as a mail-order house catalogue.

Was it the heat or the temperament of the Baden people that accounted for the fact that only a few people turned up for the event? It was not due to the barkers themselves, for Aal-Jürgen, Wurst-Herby and company yelled, shouted and complained, extolling their goods so forcefully that even a vegetarian would have picked up a parcel of meat.

Borgschulze said the Karlsruhe authorities had been unsympathetic. They had banned the sale of goods until the market proper began. This, he said, meant the appropriate mood had not been generated. No other city had been so inhospitable.

But those who did turn up had some fun. People left the market with rubber plants (healthy plants at healthy prices), Swiss cheeses, socks, dry sausage and fresh meat, convinced that they had never come across such bargains before.

The darling of the public and obvious competition victor was Aal-Jürgen who won 666 votes as against 598 for Wurst-Herby.

"Käse-Sigi" selling cheeses and "Blumen-Hannes," selling flowers, were both defeated.

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 27 April 1987)